DECEMBER 1994

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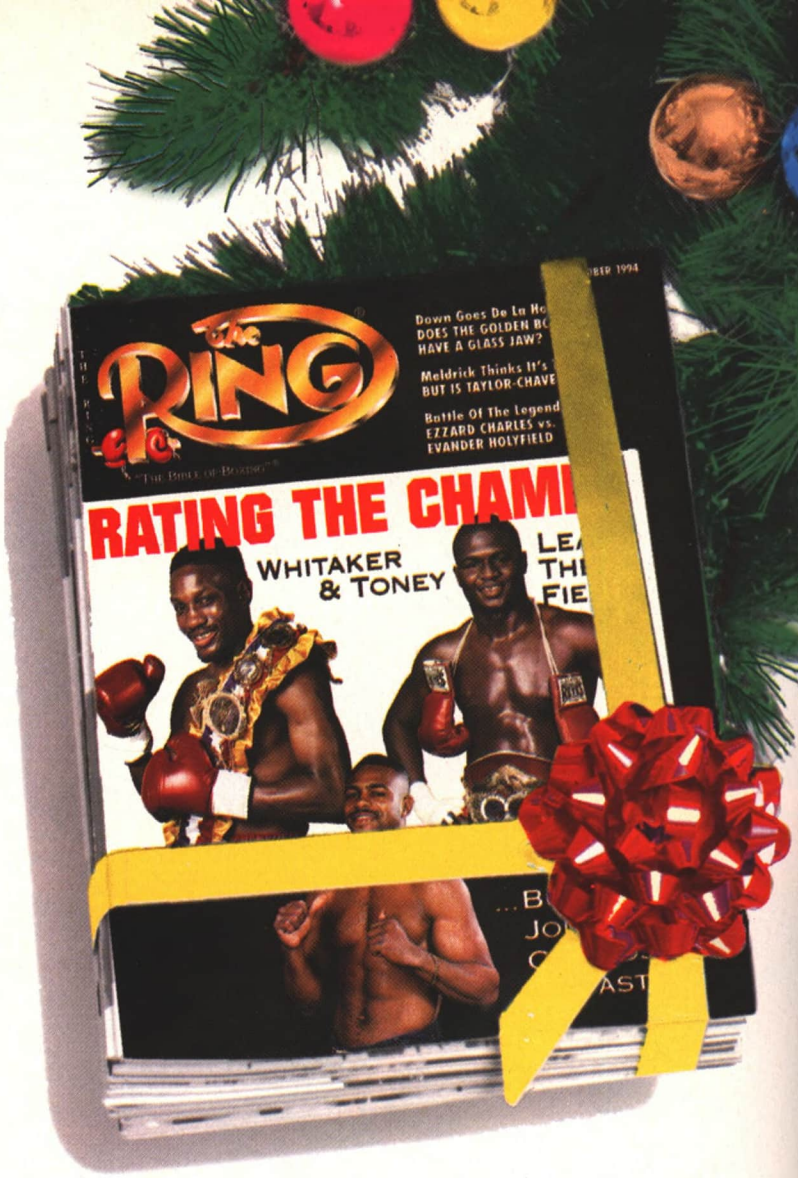

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Ringside

Every boxing writer has his pet peeve. With some, it's Don King. With others, it's the proliferation of world titles. One scribe has been pounding the AMA for so long that his argument, which I support, has begun to lose its meaning.

My pet peeve is the alphabet ratings, which have been a joke for years, but hardly of the ha-ha-ha variety. In fact, last year, when I was invited to speak on the subject of my choice before the Senate Subcommittee that was investigating boxing, I addressed the ratings of the WBA, WBC, and IBF. I sensed my diatribe bored Senator Roth and his colleagues, but at least it's part of the record.

In August, I was reminded of the absurdity of the ratings system when the WBA said it would strip Michael Moorer if he went through with his scheduled November 5 defense against George Foreman. The reason: Foreman wasn't listed among the organization's top-12 heavyweights.

Forget for a moment that Big George, who hasn't fought in more than a year, doesn't deserve a title shot in the first place. (How many of even the ranked heavyweights do?) Instead, consider the WBA's selective logic. It's a universal rule among the alphabet boys that in order to qualify as a challenger in a world title bout, a fighter has to be rated in the top 10 or 12. But like most such rules, it's easily manipulated. Had the WBA chosen to slide Fossil George into the top 12, let's say in place of Buster Mathis Jr. or Nate Tubbs, you think anyone would've raised an eyebrow? Not when the WBA suddenly ranked title shot-bound Steve Little ninth in January, despite the fact that the super middleweight hadn't fought in *15 months*. Not when Ricardo Nunez was suddenly ranked just before his April shot at junior middleweight champion Julio Cesar Vasquez. And not when John Michael Johnson was suddenly ranked just before his April shot at bantamweight champion Junior Jones.

After a judge ruled in favor of Foreman, the title fight was back on. Why the WBA tried to deny the 46-year-old Foreman one last try at the title is open to conjecture. Most insiders believe it was related to an effort to make one of King's top-ranked fighters, either Tony Tucker or Bruce Seldon, a champion. Whatever. The point is, you can be sure it had nothing to do with Foreman lacking a top-12 rating.

I've always viewed the WBA as the most dubious of the three major organizations. Perhaps the boys from Venezuela and Panama believe they can do as they please because, for the most part, they operate outside of the scrutiny of the American media. But that doesn't mean some of us aren't watching. Last December, the organization's well-connected junior welterweight champion, Juan Coggi, was allowed to keep the title after surviving a bout in which his manager, Luis Spada, prevented a knockout by climbing the ring stairs and literally holding his fighter up while challenger Eder Gonzalez punched away. And in May, poorly connected middleweight champion John David Jackson was stripped for failing to inform the WBA of his participation in a non-title bout in Atlantic City. According to WBA attorney Jim Binns, the organization requires a fee of "$5,000 or $10,000" for such fights. Jackson's purse was $15,000.

The Moorer-Foreman fiasco is just the latest example. Call me a cynic, but even if Don King goes to jail, boxing returns to the original eight weight classes, and the AMA decides to embrace The Sweet Science, I'm sure there'll be plenty more.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

"G-MAN" IS THE MAIN MAN

I cannot understand why Gerald McClellan is ranked behind Roy Jones in your ratings at middleweight. McClellan battered powerpuncher Julian Jackson to win the WBC crown and has since scored first-round knockouts in all three of his defenses, vs. Jay Bell, Gilbert Baptist, and Jackson. What more could you ask for?

Compare McClellan's championship record to Jones, who, since squeaking by Bernard Hopkins to win the vacant IBF title more than a year ago, has defended only once and faced such mediocre opponents as Fermin Chirino and Danny Garcia in non-title bouts. McClellan is the best boxer in one of boxing's best divisions, and his arrival in the pound-for-pound ratings is long overdue.

MARK GIACOPELLI
Mahopac, NY

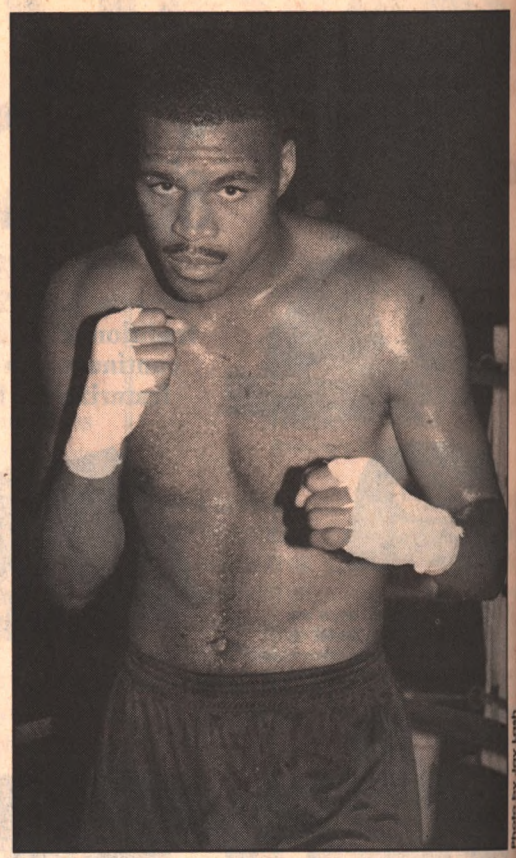


Photo by Jay Leah

McClellan: The best middleweight in the world?

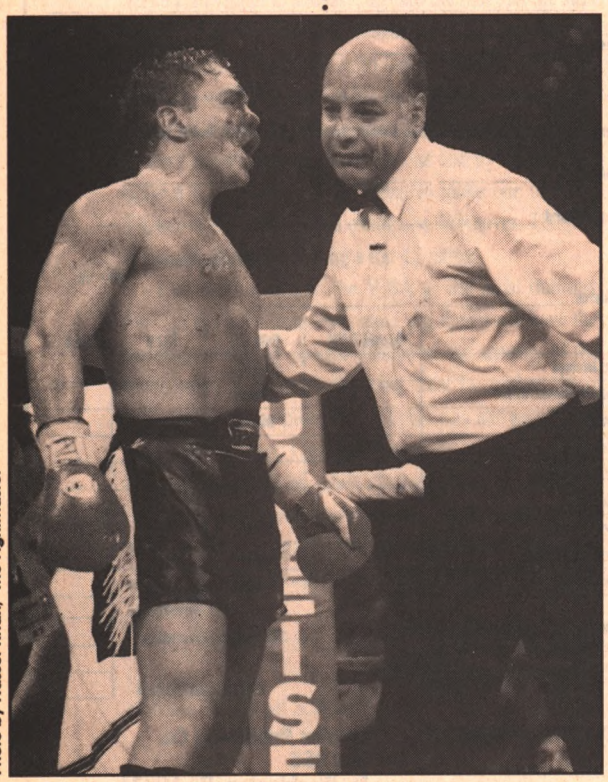


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Duran bloodied Paz, but didn't beat him

PAZ DOESN'T HAVE IT

I've read where there's talk of matching clubfighter Vinny Pazienza, who can neither box nor punch, against either James Toney or Roy Jones. If Pazienza's management would make such a match, someone should give them a brain scan. I'm convinced Pazienza has already taken too many punches to the head. What else can you conclude after seeing washed-up, 43-year-old lightweight Roberto Duran standing over him?

Pity what Toney or Jones would do to Pazienza. No boxing commission should allow such a match. Forget about this so-called two-time world champion. There are world champions out there who wouldn't make good sparring partners for a *real* champ.

A.J. "BLACKIE" NELSON
Liberal, KS

I was very disappointed in the decision of the Pazienza-Duran fight. It seems the only thing that matters to judges today is how many punches a fighter lands, regardless of how effective the punches are. Pazienza did land more punches than Duran, but that was expected—everyone knew Pazienza had advantages in youth and speed. But Duran definitely threw the more effective punches, knocking Pazienza to the mat twice (one was ruled a slip) and hurting him a couple of other times.

Duran was never hurt, and Pazienza hit him with some clean shots, the best he

uld throw. At the finish, Pazienza was bleeding from everywhere, while e 43-year-old Duran hardly looked like he'd been in a fight at all. If this as supposed to be a slapping contest, Pazienza won. But if it was a fight, ran completely outclassed Pazienza.

L. GREEN
las, NC

URAN vs. ARGUELLO

I was blown away by the September 1994 issue of THE RING. It was ily one of the best yet, but ...

I must protest your selection of Roberto Duran as the winner in "What If Roberto Duran vs. Alexis Arguello." First of all, what a fight! In all my rs of following the sport, I cannot think of a better matchup. And I go ck to the days of Billy Petrolle.

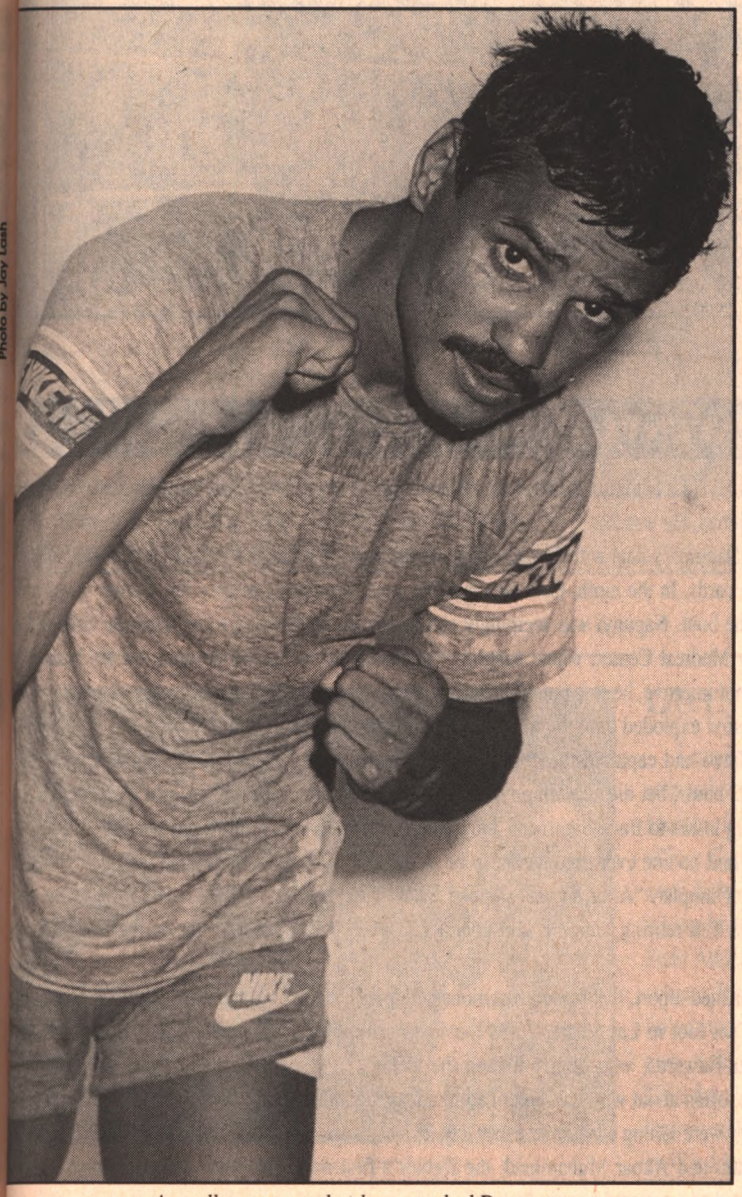
Let's look at the facts. In Duran, you had a killer. He was perhaps the greatest lightweight of all-time. But at the time of this matchup, he was nearing the end of his prime.

In Arguello, you had a great champion who was in his prime and still defeating the best the world had to offer. He was the one fighter you could always count on to give his best.

Your computer-generated story said Duran was too strong and would have bulled Arguello on the inside. But strength was Arguello's greatest asset. Both men had trouble with runners. Not a problem here. Both were first-rate punchers, but the edge has to go to Arguello. He had rare one-punch ability with either hand, and his boxing skills and chin were as good as those of anyone fighting at the time.

There would certainly be no knockout, but several knockdowns. I have to pick Arguello to win. I have a friend who said it best: "If [Esteban] DeJesus dropped Duran, Arguello would have stopped him."

TERRY SANZOTERA
Mineral Point, MO



Arguello never got the chance to duel Duran

Roberto Duran-Alexis Arguello would not have been as close as was indicated in your "What If ..." matchup. Duran was the greatest lightweight champion in history. He displayed highly underrated skills as a boxer and had natural defensive abilities few fighters possess. These attributes are often overlooked because of Duran's tenacity and power. Moreover, at the end of his reign as 135-pound champion, he was perhaps at his very best.

Arguello was a great champion who established himself as an all-time great. But Duran's level of greatness was higher. As a lightweight, Arguello was skilled and powerful, but nowhere near as devastating as he had been at featherweight and junior lightweight. Arguello wouldn't have been able to overpower Duran and would have had a hard time hitting him. The fight would've been competitive but one-sided. Duran would've taken Arguello out, probably before the 11th round.

DAMIAN V. MYERS
Redlands, CA

THE FLYS ARE FLYING

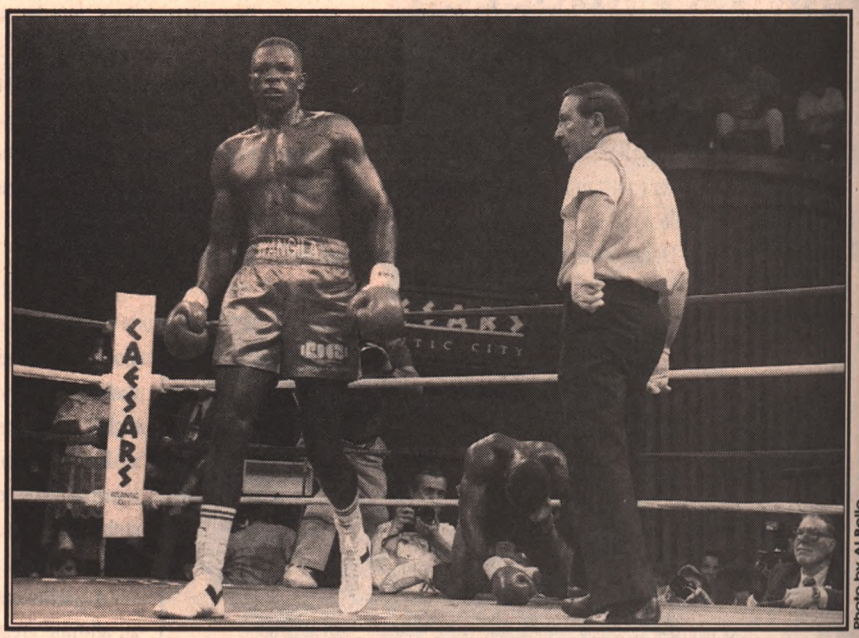
I remember attention being paid to the junior flyweights and flyweights after Michael Carbajal came out of the 1988 Olympics. Now, with Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez splitting two good fights, and a number of exciting and powerful contenders ready to challenge them, these divisions are hotter than they've ever been.

I haven't seen all the highest-rated 108- and 112-pound fighters, but after watching Carbajal, Gonzalez, Eric Griffin, Danny Romero, Mark Johnson, Isaias Zamudio, and Scotty Olson, I'm expecting some great fights. And from what I've read about strawweight Ricardo Lopez, he's terrific, also.

One other thing: Johnny Tapia possibly could beat them all!

JEFF POTTER
Brattleboro, VT ■

Round One



Napunyi floors Clarence White in April 1990

WANGILA NAPUNYI, 1967-1994

Two days after suffering a TKO loss in Las Vegas, welterweight Wangila Napunyi, formerly known as Robert Wangila, died of brain injuries. He was 26.

After eight rounds of Napunyi's duel with fringe welterweight contender David Gonzalez at the Aladdin Hotel, the bout was even on the cards. In the ninth, Gonzalez hurt Napunyi, prompting referee Joe Cortez to call a halt. About a half-hour after the bout, Napunyi was seemingly recovering in his dressing room when he collapsed. He was rushed to University Medical Center, where surgery was performed to relieve pressure on his brain. After Napunyi's condition did not improve, he was put on life-support. He died at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 24.

The Kenya-born Napunyi exploded onto the international scene at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, where he won all four of his bouts by kayo and captured the gold medal at welterweight. He turned pro under promoter Bob Arum and won his first 12 bouts, but did so unimpressively. He never contended for the world title, suffering five stoppage defeats, including losses to Buck Smith and Troy Waters, en route to compiling a record of 22-5 (16).

"He was a lovely kid and no one ever tried harder to be a fighter, but he just didn't have the talent," said Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler. "After he was stopped by Will Hernandez [in March 1992], he came to our office and said, 'That's it, I'm retiring,' and he said goodbye to everyone. For some reason, he started fighting again."

According to one published report, that reason was money. Napunyi's purse for the Gonzalez fight was $2,500.

"When Wangila first set foot in Las Vegas, I was the first person he called," said former junior lightweight champion Cornelius Boza-Edwards, who briefly trained the welterweight. "His kids played with my kids, and we'd talk on a daily basis, often about why his career hadn't advanced like he had wanted. He was very concerned that in Africa, the Africans were killing each other every day. He was a quiet, sensitive man."

Boza, along with Arum and Akbar Muhammad, the fighter's first manager, paid to fly Napunyi's body to Kenya so he could be buried as a national hero in Nairobi.

THE 10 BEST SUMMER MOVIES WITH BOXING THEMES

10. *Speed:* An action film based on the career of junior welterweight ick Padilla, who is programmed to explode if he doesn't throw 100 nches per round.

9. *The Lyin' King:* A documentary examining promoter Don King's me negotiations with his fighters. They're talking a best supporting ctor Oscar for Tim Witherspoon.

8. *I Love Trouble:* The thrill-a-minute outside-the-ring adventures heavyweight Tommy Morrison. Parental guidance recommended.

7. *Getting Even With Dad:* The gut-wrenching story of Roy Jones, ho chooses between remaining loyal to his father or becoming a ring perstar. Bring plenty of Kleenex; the scene where Jones breaks down fter being offered only $2-million for a title defense is sure to bring tears.

6. *Ciao, Professore!:* Lina Wertmuller's black comedy ruises on Michael Moorer's decision to break away from iners George "The Professor" Benton and Lou Duva in 993. It's a big summer for Capt. Lou, who also stars as Fred lintstone in *The Flintstones.*

5. *Spanking The Monkey:* A hilarious look at three trainers, ngelo Dundee, Eddie Futch, and Jackie McCoy, and how their ighters respond when asked to refrain from sex while in training amp. A chuckle a minute.

4. *True Lies:* The stunning directorial debut of IBF atings committee chairman Doug Beavers, whose dark, moky tribute to film noir examines the difference between act and truth. If a fighter loses three bouts in a row but emains in the top 10, is he still one of the best in the world? ascinating stuff.

3. *Clear And Present Danger:* A remake of the Michael Douglas-Kathleen Turner classic *War Of The Roses,* eaturing the ever-escalating conflict between boxing and the AMA. Don't leave your seat to buy popcorn when WBC President Jose Sulaiman, disguised as the Easter bunny, sneaks into the office of AMA journal editor Dr. George Lundberg and pelts his medical school diploma with eggs.

2. *Barcelona:* Producers are hoping Oscar De La Hoya can carry this screwball comedy about the exploits of the 1992 U.S. Olympic boxing team. In previews, audience members were asked to record each chuckle on lap-top computers. If half the audience responded to a joke, it stayed in the script.

1. *It Could Happen To You:* The long-awaited bio of Frankie Randall, who went from rags to riches to fighting Julio Cesar Chavez one time too many. Shot on location in Las Vegas, but edited in Mexico.

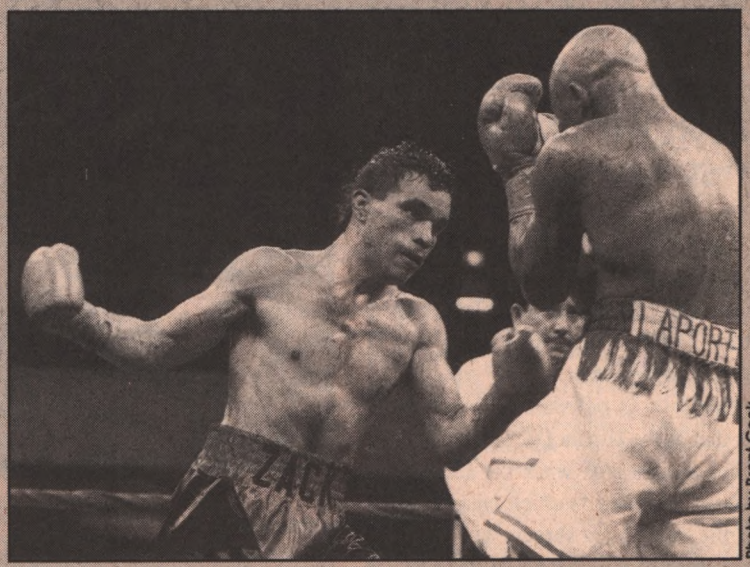
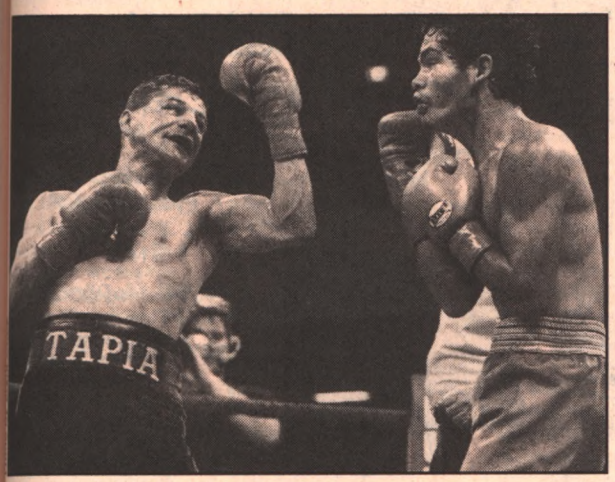


Photo by Brent Cook

If Padilla doesn't punch, will he explode?



Tapia: Busted for selling soap shavings

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Comebacking NABF 115-pound champion **Johnny Tapia** was arrested with two other men in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for what was thought to be crack cocaine to an off-duty police officer. Tapia was released after spending a night in jail, and the charges were dismissed. The substance turned out to be soap shavings. Tapia has a long history with drugs. He is randomly tested by the New Mexico State Athletic Commission ... In the September issue of *Playboy*, cover subject **Robin Givens** writes a first-person story that deals with her failed marriage to **Mike Tyson**. "He desperately wanted to break his own cycle of violence," she said of the former heavyweight champion. "But there were many obstacles preventing him from doing so. As the heavyweight champion of the world, he was exempt from the rules of civilized behavior."

WANNA BE LIKE MIKE?

And you thought the search for a new Scarlett O'Hara was exhaustive.

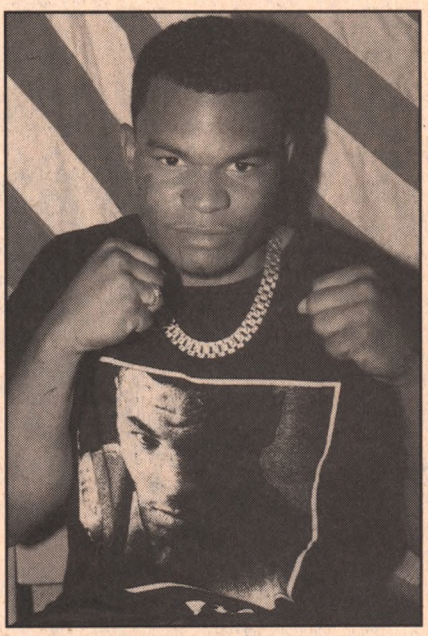
In July, HBO Pictures concluded a nationwide casting search for the lead role in its upcoming biography film on Mike Tyson. *Tyson* will be partly based on Jose Torres' book, *Fire And Fear: The Inside Story Of Mike Tyson*. Said Robert Cooper, senior vice president of HBO Pictures, "This is a story of the pursuit of the American Dream and the difficulty of escaping the psychological scars of growing up in the ghetto, even after finding success." Too bad. We were kind of hoping the film would be about Tyson's attempt to drive his opponent's nose bone into his brain.

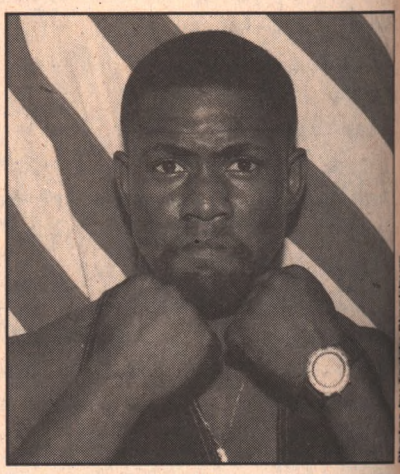
Lots of young men turned out for the casting calls, which were conducted in Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and New York City. According to an HBO press release, candidates were asked to bring photos and possess the following attributes: "muscle mass; age 19-21, youthful appearance; acting ability; height 5'10"-6'; weight 200-230 pounds; some boxing experience helpful."

Thomas Cobb, who auditioned in New York City, told *The New York Times*, "I met Tyson when he was dating Robin [Givens]. He told me, 'You look like me,' and I said, 'If I look like you, I'm ugly.'"

We presume Mr. Cobb scored high for attitude. But he didn't get the part. The winner was one Michael Jai White, a part-time actor from Brooklyn. Here's to hoping he brings bad intentions to the role.

–Steve Farhood





When HBO called, the Tyson wannabes were everywhere

ROBERTO BALADO: 1959-1994

Three-time world champion and 1992 Olympic gold medalist Roberto Balado was killed on July 2 when his car collided with a train on the outskirts of Havana. The super heavyweight was 25.

Balado was en route to his daily workout at the Urbein Quezada training center at 6:30 a.m. when the accident occurred. He suffered multiple injuries and, despite emergency surgery at Calixto Garcia hospital, died at 2:30 that afternoon.

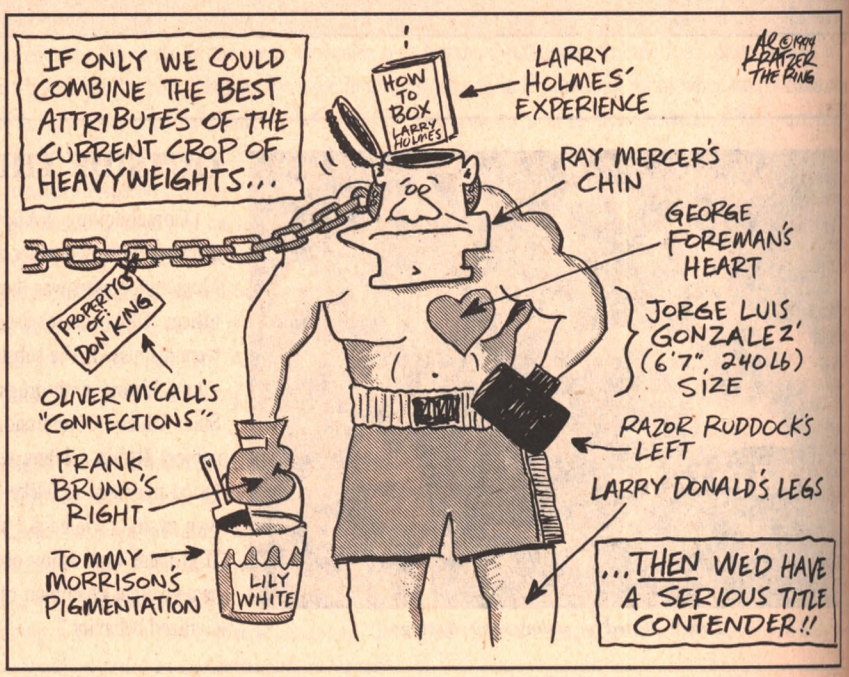
Along with 201-pound teammate Felix Savon, Balado, who for the last five years lived in the Havana suburb of La Lisa, recently dominated amateur boxing. Among his victories at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona was a convincing decision over American Larry Donald.

Balado's funeral attracted an immense turnout to Havana's Cristobal Colon cemetery. Among the mourners were legendary Cuban super heavyweight Teofilo Stevenson, Olympic track champion Alberto Juantorena, Balado's boxing teammates and coaches, numerous government officials, and thousands of countrymen.

Said Cuban television, "With the death of Balado, Cuban sports has lost one of its pillars, and the people of Cuba one of their most faithful sons."

–Bruce Williams

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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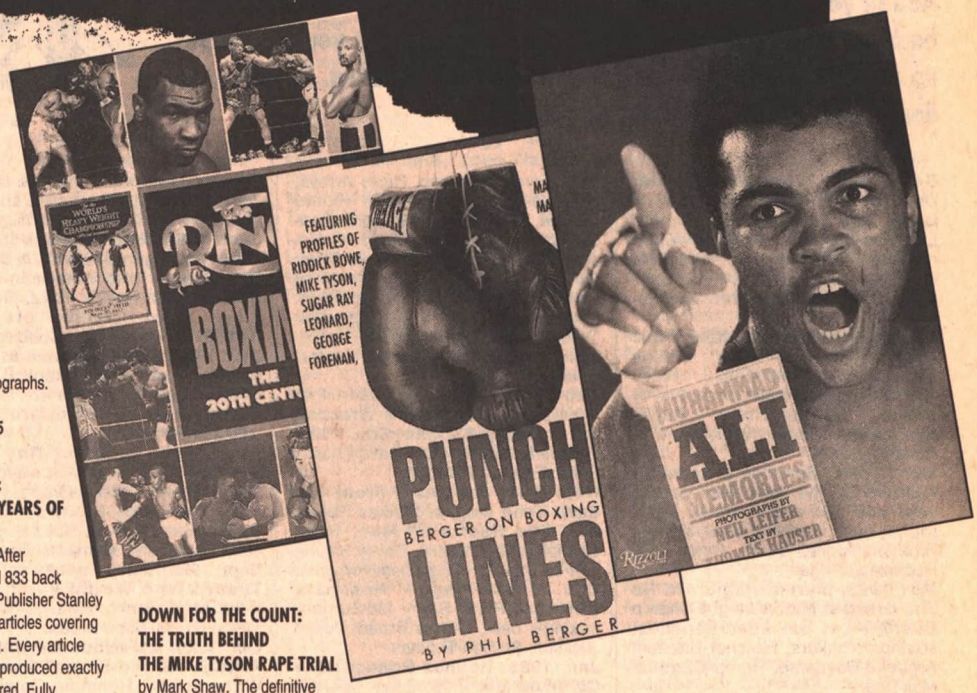

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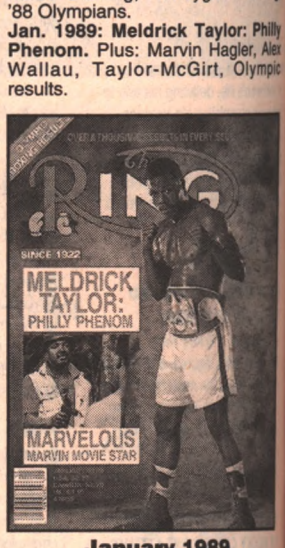

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Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

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The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
August 5, 1994

Larry Holmes

Roy Jones

Gianfranco Rosi

Winky Wright

Yori Boy Campas

Juan Coggi

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-0 (WBA & IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
4. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *24-5*
5. **RAZOR RUDDOCK** — Ft. Lauderdale, FL *29-4-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *60-4*
8. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH *17-0*
9. **LIONEL BUTLER** — Houston, TX *22-10-1*
10. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *24-0-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *41-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *40-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *18-0*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *16-3*
7. **DAVID IZEQWIRE** — Washington, D.C. *16-0*
8. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *23-2-2*
9. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *21-3-1*
10. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *20-4-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **LEEONZER BARBER** — Detroit, MI *19-1*
5. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-2*
6. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *28-12*
7. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *14-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *35-4*
9. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-2*
10. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *23-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *44-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *39-0-2*
4. **STEVE LITTLE** — Reading, PA *22-13-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *42-2*
6. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *25-1*
7. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *38-5*
8. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *32-6-1*
9. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *23-1*
10. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *31-0*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-3-1*
5. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
6. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC *27-1*
7. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *49-3*
8. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *22-3*
9. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *30-3*
10. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *28-3*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
Mission Valley, CA 38-4 (WBC Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
Argentina 50-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy 57-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
New York, NY 21-5
5. **JULIO CESAR GREEN**
Brooklyn, NY 17-1
6. **SIMON BROWN**
Mount Airy, MD 41-3
7. **CARL DANIELS**
St. Louis, MO 30-1
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 25-0
9. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
Spain 35-2
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
Albany, NY 16-3-5

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA 33-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
Puerto Rico 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
Ghana 26-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY 63-3-1
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico 55-0
6. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland 30-1
7. **ANTHONY JONES**
Detroit, MI 34-5-1
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
Puerto Rico 18-0-1
9. **OBA CARR**
Detroit, MI 31-0
10. **DERRELL COLEY**
Capitol Heights, MD 24-0-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
Warren, OH 49-3-1
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico 90-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
Brentwood, NY 25-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **ZACK PADILLA**
Azusa, CA 22-1-1
5. **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina 66-2-2 (WBA Champ)
6. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
Australia 12-0
7. **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA 45-4-1
8. **CHARLES MURRAY**
Rochester, NY 31-2
9. **DAVID KAMAU**
Los Angeles, CA 23-0
10. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL 35-19-4

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico 32-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
Arleta, CA 41-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK**
Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
Atlantic City, NJ 22-0-1
5. **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME 35-1
6. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
Montebello, CA 14-0
7. **MIGUEL JULIO**
Colombia 25-1-1
8. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
Denver, CO 12-0
9. **SHANE MOSLEY**
Pomona, CA 12-0
10. **BILLY SCHWER**
England 25-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
San Antonio, TX 28-0-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico 35-3 (IBF Champ)
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana 36-3-2
5. **CALVIN GROVE**
Coatesville, PA 46-5
6. **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA 38-2
7. **ARTURO GATTI**
Jersey City, NJ 17-1
8. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
Argentina 47-1-1
9. **ED HOPSON**
St. Louis, MO 23-0
10. **REGGIE TUUR**
Whitestone, NY 35-3-1

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY**
Flushing, NY 39-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
Detroit, MI 36-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **ELOY ROJAS**
Venezuela 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
South Korea 26-2-1
5. **STEVE ROBINSON**
Wales 18-9-1
6. **GOYO VARGAS**
Mexico 30-5-1
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
Portland, OR 39-1
8. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
Mexico 30-2-2
9. **FRANCISCO SEGURA**
Coachella, CA 24-6-1
10. **ORLANDO SOTO**
Panama 23-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
Las Vegas, NV 27-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **TRACY PATTERSON**
Highland, NY 50-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
Puerto Rico 40-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **JULIO GERVACIO**
Puerto Rico 29-3-2
5. **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa 33-2
6. **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA 49-6
7. **CESAR SOTO**
Mexico 38-5-2
8. **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY 33-1
9. **MAUI DIAZ**
San Jose, CA 26-1
10. **EDDIE CROFT**
San Mateo, CA 20-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX 37-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
Japan 21-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **DAORUNG CHUWATANA**
Thailand 52-4-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia 25-1
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
Las Vegas, NV 13-0
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan 11-1-1
7. **NASEEM HAMED**
England 12-0
8. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 31-0
9. **AL KOTEY**
England 18-1
10. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
Puerto Rico 15-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JULIO BORBOA**
Mexico 23-4 (IBF Champ)
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan 23-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
Japan 14-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
Thailand 47-4
5. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM 27-0-1
6. **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea 20-2
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 21-0
8. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
Argentina 30-4-3
9. **CECILIO ESPINO**
Huntington Park, CA 28-3-1
10. **KOTARO HAYASHI**
Japan 12-3

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Japan 18-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **SAN SOW PLOENCHIT**
Thailand 19-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
Thailand 18-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **MARK JOHNSON**
Washington, D.C. 20-1
5. **DANNY ROMERO**
Albuquerque, NM 16-0
6. **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela 17-1
7. **MIGUEL MARTINEZ**
Mexico 27-7-1
8. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
Mexico 23-12-2
9. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA 36-5-1
10. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico 27-3-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
Mexico 39-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ 31-1
3. **LEO GAMEZ**
Venezuela 25-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico 39-4-3
5. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
Jasper, TN 14-1
6. **JESUS CHONG**
Mexico 24-5
7. **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama 15-3-1
8. **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico 26-2-1
9. **FAHLAN SAKKIRIN**
Thailand 26-2-1
10. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Welterweight
2. **JAMES TONEY**
Super Middleweight
3. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight
4. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
Strawweight
5. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
Junior Flyweight
6. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Junior Flyweight
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
Junior Featherweight
8. **ROY JONES**
Middleweight
9. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
Middleweight
10. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
Junior Welterweight

New Faces

Paulie Ayala

Bantamweight

By Bruce Williams

You know the story about the tortoise and the hare? Paulie Ayala isn't jealous that fellow Fort Worth native and former amateur star Sergio Reyes is going to beat him to a shot at a world title.

"Actually, I'm happy for him," Ayala said of '92 Olympian Reyes' negotiated shot at IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales. "If he wins, it brings [the title] that much closer to home. If he loses, there's not much problem that he and I will still meet down the road. I want one of us to have a title, or preferably both of us, and then we can unify it here in Fort Worth. We had a long amateur career fighting each other; we met 17 times, and I think he has two [win edge] on me."

One of Ayala's losses to Reyes was controversial, coming in the finals of the Olympic Trials. Both fighters turned pro shortly thereafter. Ayala has built a record of 10-0 (5); Reyes was 9-0 (3) when he signed to meet Canizales. (The bout, originally scheduled for July, was postponed when Canizales was sidelined with sore hands.)

Ayala is full of confidence that his turn will come in good time. He hasn't even had a 10-rounder yet; in May, he was scheduled to go 10, but the bout was canceled when he suffered back spasms in training. A number of tentative summer bouts also fell through, but Ayala remains upbeat.

"I work myself very hard all the time," said the 24-year-old southpaw. "I want to be ready for anything that might come up. I always want to be in the ring at 100 percent so I can accomplish my goal, which is to win a world title. I'd like to defend it a few times, then retire. I'm not really interested in moving up beyond bantamweight. I give myself about six more years in boxing, depending on the outcome of my fights."

Many people never expected Ayala to succeed as a pro, figuring he was a classic candidate for amateur burnout. He fought 384 bouts (360-24) and says, "I wasn't as dedicated as I should have been. I swayed off. I liked to party. The only one I have to blame is myself."

Ayala, who is no relation to the Ayala clan of San Antonio, won a national Junior Olympic title and a bronze medal at the 1988 Western Olympic Trials. In 1989, he defeated future world champion Eddie Cook en route to the Texas Golden Gloves title.

"The most I ever trained was two weeks, which was for that fight, and all that was was running and

(Continued on page 57)

PRO RECORD

1992		
Nov. 27	Jaime Olvera, Dallas	W 6
1993		
March 5	Jesse Magana, Dallas	KO 4
April 2	Manuel Robles, Dallas	KO 2
June 24	Evgeni Novocelov, Albany, NY	W 6
Aug. 28	Marcos Flores, Fort Worth, TX	KO 1
Oct. 13	Arturo Estrada, San Antonio, TX	W 6
Nov. 11	Enrique Gomez, Fort Worth	KO 1
Dec. 9	George Acevedo, New York City	W 6
1994		
Feb. 17	Javier Diaz, Fort Worth	W 8
April 16	Lee Cargle, Moore, OK	KO 3

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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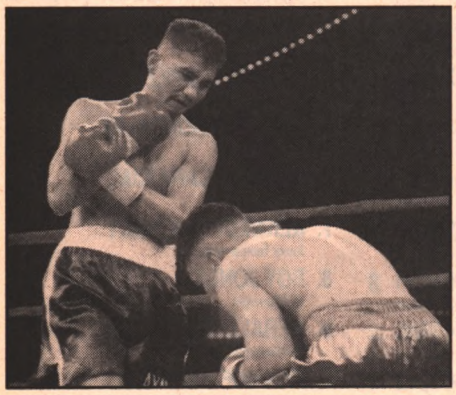

Photo by Ray Bailey

Ayala punishes fellow prospect George Acevedo

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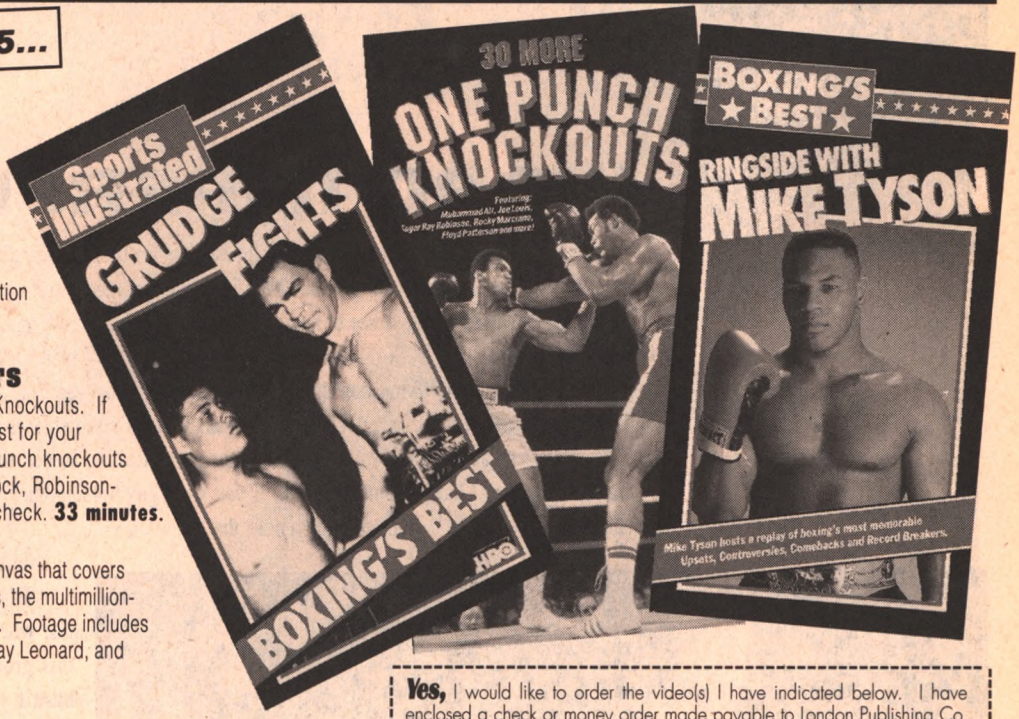

DGE FIGHTS

greatest grudge fights in boxing history esented in this non-stop action video. ack Dempsey try to regain the title from e Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge t Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in ers, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection footage that recounts boxing's most rable bouts. **58 minutes.**

E ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

ebbing followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If e knockout action, this video is a must for your ion. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts any more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson- Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

SIDE WITH MIKE TYSON

yson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers n events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion- gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and more. **44 minutes.**

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

st skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this ing video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel . Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by dy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

NG'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS

ts with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive tage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; eights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, onzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie eavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

EAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"

est draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's ictory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. minutes.

T ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS

pot a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, g Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob ions, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many 0 minutes.

EAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS

Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll engers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. nson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene emonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

N AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds nsight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown m. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe cky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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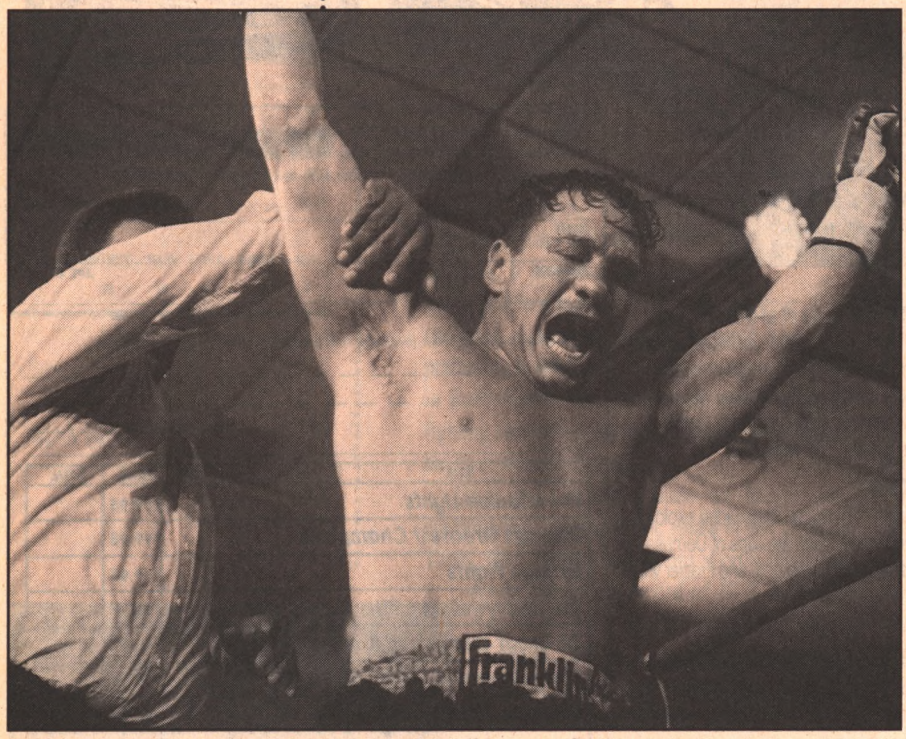
Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

WORD IMPERFECT

Doctors get upset when they hear of an illness that has been incorrectly diagnosed, and chefs do a slow burn when they watch someone char the flavor out of a piece of meat, so it's only fair that we writers be allowed to react disapprovingly when we see or hear someone commit an offense against the English language. I once heard wrestler-turned-announcer Gorilla Monsoon exclaim during a TV match, "The fans are literally hanging from the rafters!" For that offense, Monsoon should have been literally hanged from the rafters himself.

A few personal pet peeves are cliches, redundancies, and catch-phrases that make absolutely no sense. Boxing is rife with them all. Like the WBC, bridge tolls, and the Rolling Stones, they'll probably be with us forever. But that doesn't mean I have to put up with it. If you see a guy holding his hands over his ears and humming when he's in the company of a group of fight people, that's me.



What does it matter if Vinny Pazienza weighs in at 165 pounds, especially if he climbs through the ropes at 173?

Never again do I hope to hear ... :

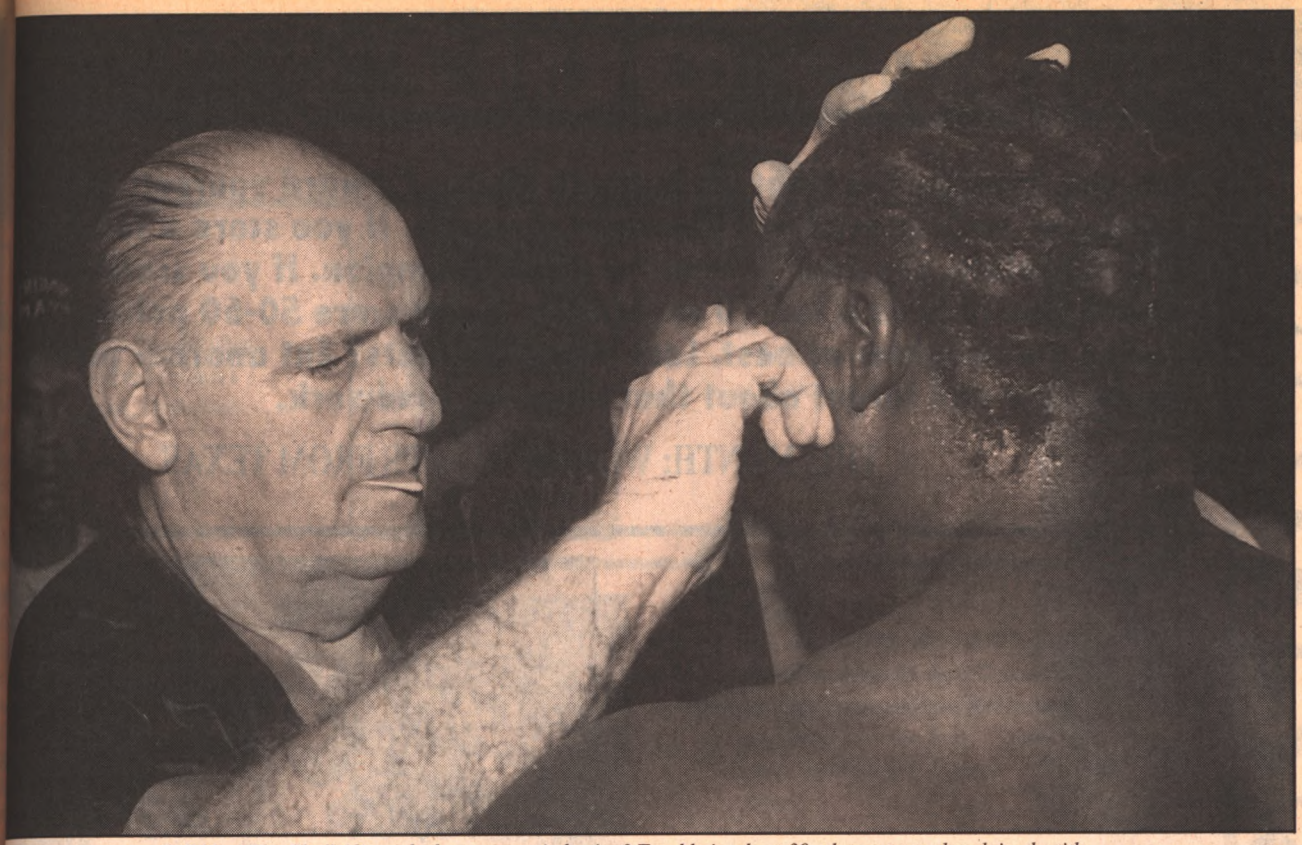
"It's the fight the public wants": And just where is the seismograph that measures this groundswell of public opinion? There hasn't yet been a CBS/Gallup Poll asking Americans what they think of a Michael Moorer-Lennox Lewis matchup. Who is this public that's doing the demanding? A couple of promoters, three HBO announcers, and Dan Duva's limo driver? The fight the public *really* wants is probably Don King vs. George Steinbrenner. Bare-knuckled. Or Roseanne vs. Tom Arnold. In a loser-leaves-hemisphere match. Or Julia Roberts vs. Cindy Crawford. In mud.

"He weighed in at ...": It doesn't matter what he weighed in at 48 hours before the fight, when he was as parched as the New Mexico desert and wearing nothing but a tattoo that read "Mom." By the time the bell rings, he will be about as close to his announced weight as the sky boxes are to the ring apron.

"Nobody can take that away from me": As in, "I don't care what the critics say because I was the IBF cruiserweight champion at one time, Ferdie, and no one can take that away from me."

You usually hear this line from a fighter of modest achievement, a guy who grabbed a brass ring so small, it couldn't adorn Madonna's pierced navel. These fighters have to constantly reassure themselves the talent police aren't going to burst into the house one day and say, "Hey, we were looking over a couple of newspaper clippings when we realized that you weren't really worthy of any success, after all. Those achievements—hand 'em over right now!"

This is one of the dumber cliches. *Nobody can take that away from you?* One question: When has anyone ever tried?



Is Eddie "The Clot" Aliano the best cutman in boxing? Trouble is, about 30 other cutmen also claim the title.

"He can't fight": This one has overstayed its welcome longer than George Foreman, Larry Holmes, and half the members of Congress. What the people who use it really mean is, "He can't jab and glide, he can only slide in and brawl." By their definition, Rocky Marciano couldn't fight at all. I guess he went 49-0 by getting his first serve in and playing a good net game.

The governor has agreed to grant this phrase a stay of execution if it is amended to "he can't fight *well*." The truth is, *everyone* in boxing can fight. And if you don't believe that, try reaching for the last glazed donut at a press conference.

"He'll go down in history": Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer will go down in history, Czyz The Flat-Nosed Cruiserweight won't. What history are they talking about? *Whose* history? There are 51 titles in 17 weight classes, many of them with a high turnover rate. Most people can't tell you who the WBA featherweight champion is today, let alone 15 years ago. True boxing recordkeepers are harder to find than doctors who make house calls, and there are only a couple of modest record books in existence. As for the International Boxing Hall of Fame, let's just say Cooperstown it ain't.

These days, history is whatever the mainstream—a mainstream that sees fewer and fewer big fights each year and is starved for standout performers—retains in its memory. Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, and Roberto Duran will go down in history. Kevin Kelley, Chiquita Gonzalez, and Rafael Ruelas don't have a chance.

"Financial security": The words make no cent$ because no such thing exists in the Sweet Science. Boxers lose their money the old-fashioned way: They blow it. At one point in his career, Michael Dokes went from literally nothing in champagne to fighting for a reported $500 purse. Roberto Duran, 17 years and countless millions of squandered dollars away from his pro debut, still fights for the cash. We should stop referring to this group of guys as boxers and start calling them the Insecurities and No Spare Change Commission.

"He's got heart": Save your breath. Anyone who answers the opening bell has heart.

"Any questions from this corner? Any questions from that corner?": Though I have watched hundreds of fights over the last 10 years, I have never seen a fighter interrupt the ref's instructions to actually ask a question. Imagine Mills Lane's surprise if his invitation to James Toney brought a hostile response like "yeah, I got a question. What the hell kind of name is *Mills*?" Picture Richard Steele's reaction if some journeyman opponent-type asked him, "How prematurely are you gonna stop *this* one?"

When a referee opens up the floor to take questions, he doesn't have to worry about hearing things like "do you know a good steakhouse that will still be open if the fight goes the distance?" or "does your chewing gum lose its flavor on the ringpost overnight?" Fighters keep mum because they know "any questions?" is merely ceremonial. It's the boxing equivalent of "does anybody know why these two people shouldn't be married?"

Don't speak now and forever hold your mouthpiece.

"The best cutman in boxing": Only two guys call themselves heavyweight champion. About 33 cutmen call themselves the best clotting factor in the game. Although my heart bleeds for every one of these Avatene idols, I'm all for scrapping this silly designation. Call me a rebel without a gauze.

"Don King is in trouble with the government": No need to say it out loud. It's always assumed.

"Career-threatening injury": Not as long as Evander Holyfield's faith-healer is still in business. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

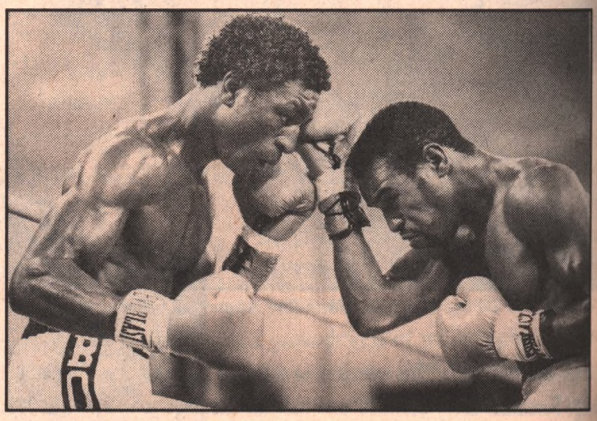
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: WORLD CHAMPS FROM TEXAS

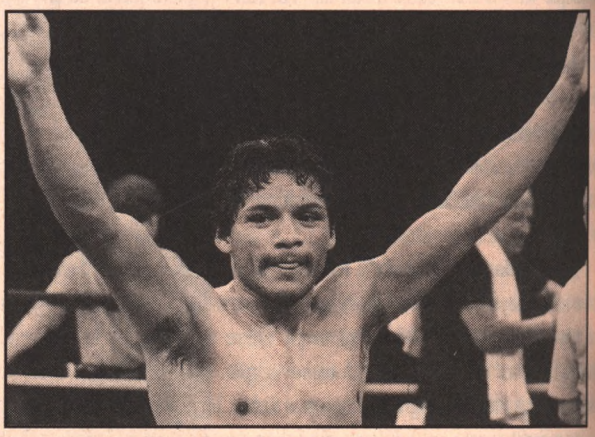
1

The fighter on the left, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, is from Uganda. His opponent was born in Dallas, raised in Washington, and fought out of New Jersey.



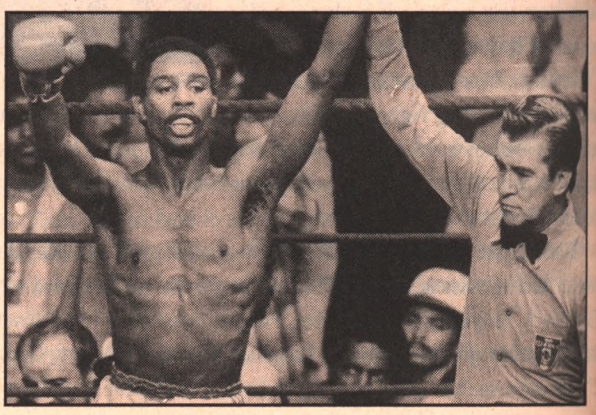
2

This lighter-weights world champ won the title in his second try, then lost it in his first defense. His baby brother ain't a bad fighter either.



3

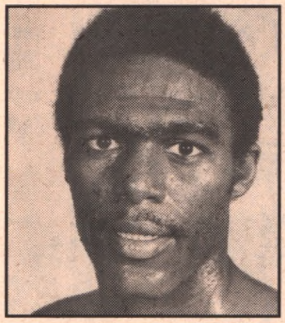
Another travelin' man, this titlist was born in Austin, raised in Ohio, and fought out of Michigan.



YOUR BOXING IQ

4

rn in Marlin, Texas, this
redictable bomber fought often
the West Coast, and became a
favorite in Japan, of all places.

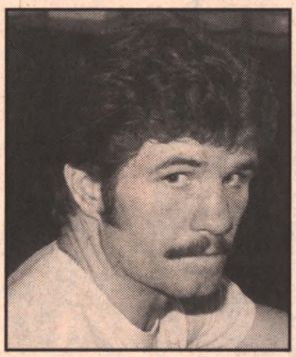


5

A heavy hitter with a fragile chin, this champ, born in Milburn, Texas, faced a handful of all-time greats.

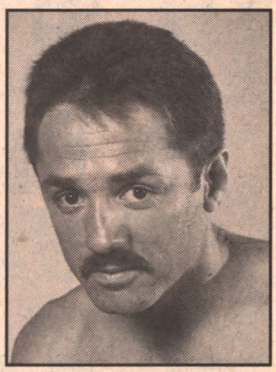
6

xas was hot in the mid-'80s,
en this pressure fighter
xpectedly won a world title. He
s a stablemate and neighbor of
nother Texan, Donald Curry.



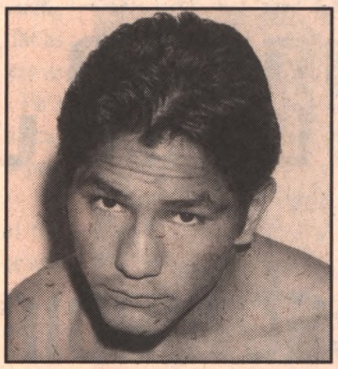
7

Born in Olion, Texas, this diminutive but superbly gifted warrior fought on the West Coast. Now he's an L.A.-based trainer.



8

true powerpuncher, this 154-
under, born in Pecos, Texas,
ght all three of his world title
hts in Japan.

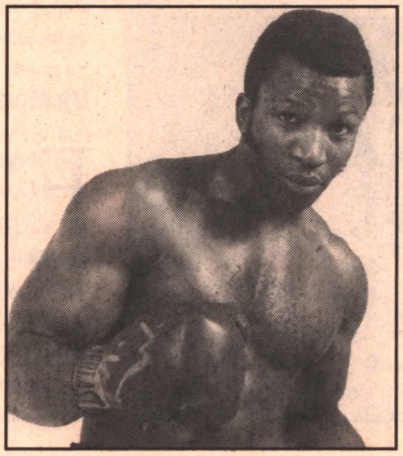


9

A top amateur, this native of Fort Worth was nonetheless a major underdog when he secured his first title try. He capitalized, scoring one of the biggest upsets of the '80s.

10

is quiet and reserved champ
s born in Gatesville, Texas, but
ght his first dozen pro bouts in
lifornia. He fit right in on
uscle Beach.



ANSWERS:

1) Rocky Lockridge
2) Gaby Canizales
3) Hilmer Kenty
4) Bruce Curry
5) Lew Jenkins
6) Gene Hatcher
7) Albert Davila
8) Oscar Albarado
9) Stevie Cruz
10) Mike Weaver

King and attorney Peter Fleming address the press outside a Federal courthouse in New York City. The promoter faces trial for insurance fraud.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

IF DON KING GOES TO JAIL . . .

Will Boxing's Biggest Empire Crumble?

Carl King has managed several of the fighters his father promotes. If King goes to jail, it's doubtful Carl would have the business acumen to take over.

Photo by Jay Lash

By Bernard Fernandez

Forget death and taxes. The feds indicting Don King has become the one constant in 20th century America. So King's in trouble again, eh? At this point, it's hardly enough to raise an eyebrow, much less King's hair. That's because it happens every few years. But *this* time, we're told ...

For boxing, King's indictment is indeed serious business. No other non-fighter is so closely

ciated with the sport. Moreover, over the past
years, no other promoter has created as many
fights. Thusly, two questions must be
essed. First, what will happen to King
ween now and the trial? Second, if King
es boxing, will some or all of his fighters,
ding Julio Cesar Chavez, Terry and Orlin
ris, Michael Carbajal, Thomas Hearns,
ald McClellan, Gianfranco Rosi, Virgil Hill,
e McCallum, Ricardo Lopez, Jesse James
a, Al Cole, Felix Trinidad, Bobby Czyz, and
st of top-rated contenders, leave him?

Rhetorically speaking, the unemployment
es are filled with former football and basket-
coaches who had been given public votes of
fidence by the people who shortly thereafter
nd it necessary to fire them. With a nine-count
eral indictment for insurance fraud hanging
r King's hair, his associates are rushing forth
ffer support for a man from whom they might
n be obliged to distance themselves.

"If our announcers don't call Don the anti-
rist, if they don't blame him for the Holocaust,
here's a cloud in the sky and they don't say
's Don's fault, they're labeled as shills," Jay
rkin of Showtime, King's broadcast partner,
d in spirited defense of the beleaguered pro-
ter. "It's ridiculous."

And the federal indictment?

"There are various contingencies, but at this
nt there really is no point in our speculating
what might happen," Larkin said. "As far as
r relationship with Don goes, it's business as
ual. We still support him unconditionally. He's
dicted, not convicted. This is America.
eryone, and that includes Don King, is pre-
med innocent until proven guilty."

Marc Ratner, executive director of the
vada State Athletic Commission, more or less
ending out the same message.

"There's obviously a significant difference
tween an indictment and a conviction," said
tner, whose state has hosted any number of
ng-promoted boxing events. "The commission
seeking clarification from the [Nevada] attor-
general's office as to any course of action we
ght follow should there be a conviction. But at
s point, I can honestly say we've never had
problems in our dealings with Mr. King.
's been very easy to work with."

King said he appreciates the testimonials, but
know what they say about the Lord helping
se who help themselves. And if circumstances
re such that he had not an ally in the world,
ng, who understands rhetorical speaking better
n anyone, having made it his primary form of
mmunication, would fight on alone if need be.

Photo by Jay Lash

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Above: Even with Mike Tyson in jail, King has surrounded himself with top fighters. His latest signees have been Al Cole and Michael Carbajal. Below: The $100-million question: If King is convicted, what will happen to former heavyweight champion Tyson, who figures to return to the ring next summer?

"I'm innocent of allegations," King, 63, said at a press conference to hype a September 17 pay-per-view card highlighted by the long-awaited Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor rematch. "The only fear I've ever had is of being framed, but I believe in the American system of justice too much to think that that could happen.

"Really, I don't have any feelings of apprehension or fear. None. I ain't done nothing. Propaganda is a lethal weapon, and this ain't something you can treat lightly, but I'm not making any plans at all other than going about my business after I'm exonerated. I'm going to beat this."

Privately, though, one wonders how much of the confidence exuded by King and his associates is a smokescreen, an illusion. There are other observers who insist that the government, which consistently has lost to King in two decades of legal wrangles, finally has put together a case so solid that not even King's penchant for courtroom sleight-of-hand can make it go away.

(Continued on page 57)

INJURIES IN BOXING

Part II:

Olympic hero Sugar Ray Seales won the NABF middleweight title, but never made the big bucks accorded world champions. Despite deteriorating vision, the southpaw kept fighting, even after being reduced to opponent status.

By Robert Cassidy

The day Sugar Ray Seales walked away from boxing, he left the sport a veteran of 429 amateur and professional fights and seven eye operations. Within the span of his 11-year pro career, Seales lost seven pro fights—and much, much more.

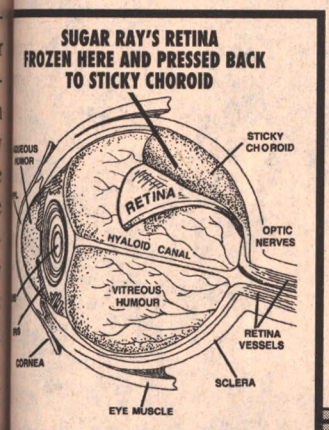
While he acknowledges boxing provided him with many pleasant memories, Seales just as readily admits it left him virtually blind; he lost total vision in his left eye and 90 percent of the vision in his right eye. When he retired in 1983, he could barely see the avalanche of debt ready to topple upon him. If he could have, he would have attempted to remove himself from his financial burdens the only way he knew how—by fighting. But blind men don't get licensed to fight.

Things were supposed to turn out differently for the 1972 Olympic hero with the flashy hands. Seales could match talents with any of his middleweight contemporaries and possessed a gold medal that was supposed to open doors otherwise slammed shut to tall and talented southpaws. Loyal to a manager who lacked the proper connections, Seales turned into a big-name opponent promoters routinely flied in to match against local prospects. Seales shortened many bright futures. But when he was imported to face a Marvin Hagler, an Alan Minter, or a Cyclone Hart, it was his future that was being jeopardized. Instead of enjoying the success shared by so many former Olympic champions, Seales became a tragic and sympathetic figure, and a symbol of everything wrong with boxing.

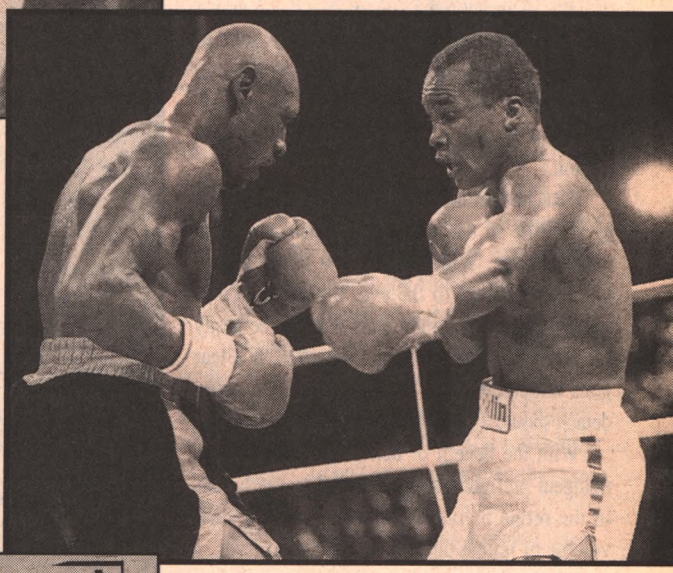
Soon after Seales retired, he found himself $160,000 in debt, most of which was owed to physicians, hospitals, and medical suppliers in what was a futile fight to save his sight. "My biggest vision problem was seeing myself at the top," Seales says today. "I won the gold medal and wanted to become champion of the world. If my eyesight wasn't bad, I'd be in there now. Life is only so long or so short, and you try to do everything you can within that time span."

Doctors tried to do everything they could for

Blind Men Can't Be Licensed To Fight



Sugar Ray Leonard jokes with Dr. Ronald Michels (above), who extended the five-division champion's career by performing retinal surgery in 1982. Some of Sugar Ray's most satisfying victories, including his 1987 upset of Marvin Hagler (right), came after the surgery.



Experts write off Leonard

But one doctor says eye may be stronger

By EDWARD EDELSON
Science Editor

THE DETACHED RETINA suffered by Sugar Ray Leonard probably has ended his boxing career, medical experts said yesterday. But it may be six months or more before eye doctors can say whether he will be able to fight again.

The Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where Leonard underwent surgery on Saturday, has not described the nature of his injury or the operation. Other medical experts cited experience with detached retinas in making their assessments.

THERE IS A CHANCE that the operation will make Leonard's left eye, which suffered the detachment, stronger than ever, said Dr. Francis L'Esperance, an ophthalmologist at Presbyterian Hospital here.

"If it is a peripheral detachment, his chances of coming back and fighting are very good," L'Esperance said. "In many cases, once an eye is reinforced after a retinal detachment operation it is stronger than ever."

But Dr. Edwin A. Campbell, medical director of the New York State Athletic Commission, said that Leonard probably will never box again.

"My experience with retinal detachments through the years has been horrendous," Campbell said. "Boxers who have sustained detached retinas and have had surgical reattachments have sustained further damage and have redetached, either in the gym or in their first bouts."

THE ONLY WELL-KNOWN exception is heavyweight Earnie Shavers. He suffered a detached retina in a 1979 fight with WBC champion Larry Holmes and has fought half a dozen bouts

See EYE Page 53

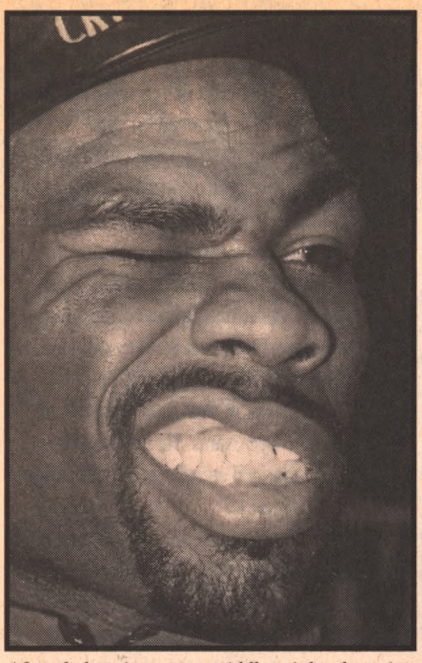
Daily News, Wednesday, May 12, 1982

Seales. He first suffered a damaged retina in his left eye when he was thumbed en route to decisioning Jamie Thomas in 1980. After laser surgery, he was pronounced fit to continue his career and was told his eye was stronger than before. While he would lose just one of his remaining eight fights, Seales steadily lost his vision. More operations followed, and he was advised by doctors to retire. Able to still pass the simple physicals issued at the time, he didn't listen. (In a 1983 story in THE RING, Seales said he used to cheat on eye exams. He now says tales of his having memorized eye charts in order to pass physicals are untrue.)

"I don't want to discourage anyone from fighting," said Seales, who, with 60 percent vision restored to his right eye through further surgery, has reshaped his life. (He's spent the last eight years as a schoolteacher and amateur boxing coach.) "If the doctor passes you, then I would say it's okay to keep fighting. But if you have an eye problem and you're not doing well, not winning, don't risk it. If you're winning, it's different. Be careful, but go ahead."

What Seales experienced—a detached retina, in his case in both eyes—was once considered among the most career-threatening injuries a fighter could suffer. Although a retinal injury is still dangerous, it no longer signifies the end. It is a problem that can be corrected with a high degree of success. But when a fighter subjects his eyes to further punishment, there are no guarantees a surgically repaired retina will hold up.

The retina is a film-like membrane at the rear



After dethroning super middleweight champion Darrin Van Horn, Iran Barkley winked at the press and said, "I could've beaten him with one eye." Barkley's history of eye problems had created a prefight controversy.

of the eye. It receives light stimuli and sends those messages to the brain. If the eye were a camera, the retina would be the film. When a detachment occurs, the symptoms include flashes of light, a sensation that a curtain is being drawn over the field of vision, and spots or floaters in the vision. Boxing aside, the injury is common in sports where a participant can be hit by a small, flying object, such as racketball, squash, and badminton.

Detached retinas usually occur among people aged 40 to 70 and are mostly associated with advanced age. With fighters, the injury occurs because of blows to the eye. Retinal problems usually begin with slight tears that can be easily repaired with laser surgery. However, if a tear goes undetected, the retina will subsequently detach should a fighter continue to take punches.

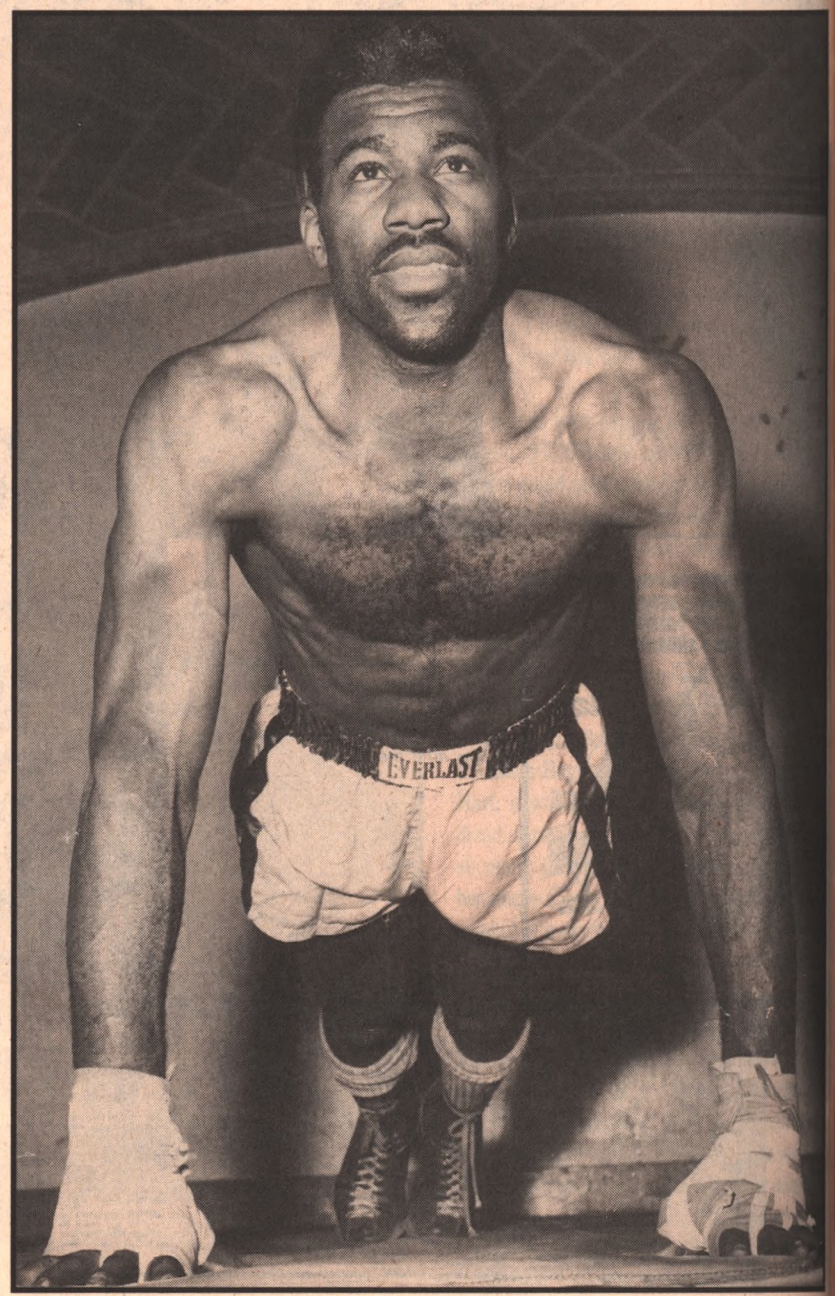
With the benefit of better technology, more stringent prefight testing designed to catch tears in the retina before detachment, and a greater volume of retinal injuries for doctors to study, a fighter like Seales may have left boxing with better vision.

"In the last 20 years there have been technological improvements that have made a difference," said Dr. Vincent Giovinazzo, an ophthalmologist and consultant to the New York State Athletic Commission. "Doctors were more reluctant to let a fighter continue his career because they weren't sure of the consequences. Today, doctors are more confident. In some cases, a detached retina can still be a career-ending injury. It depends on how the eye heals. Many boxers are able to go ahead and resume their careers."

With the exception of subdural hematomas, or brain hemorrhages, as they are commonly called, eye injuries are the most feared—and often most publicized—plight of professional boxers. While cuts in the area of the eyes give boxing its gore, it is the damage done behind the eye itself, not around it, that concern doctors like Giovinazzo. If a fighter escapes a bout with merely a cut eyelid, he is lucky. And in most cases nowadays, the cuts aren't given a chance to become too severe.

"I think TV has a lot to do with fights being stopped sooner," said New York's Al Gavin, one of boxing's premier cutmen. "A lot more people are observing what's going on. There is more accountability today."

It was once a macho rite of passage for a fighter to brawl through the blood streaming down his face. Those days have gone the way of small fight clubs and eight world champions. Although a show of blood creates a sense of imminent danger, a cut usually does not lead to a



A top light heavyweight of the '60s, Johnny Persol suffered an eye injury and fought for years while occasionally experiencing from double-vision. He never fought for the world title.

ical emergency. It is primarily a cosmetic
ern.

"Just because there is blood doesn't mean
e is danger," said Randy Neumann, a heavy-
ht contender of the late-'60s and now a New
ey-based world-class referee. "I fought half
y fights with cuts. The actual loss of blood is
a factor. Even with a bad cut, a fighter won't
e enough blood for the situation to become
erous. The reason to stop a fight because of
d is if the blood impairs the fighter's vision.
becomes dangerous because he can't see the
hes coming."

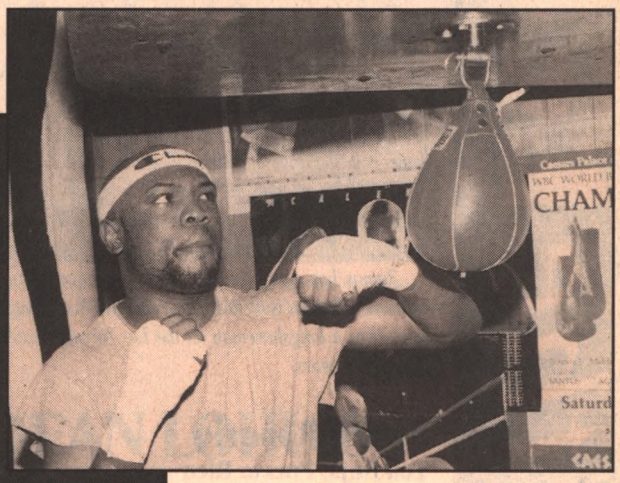
Also being regulated more closely are the
ds available to cutmen who work feverish-
tween rounds to stop a cut. Legend has it cornermen of the '30s used chewing tobacco mixed with their own saliva to stop cuts. Of the more recently banned substances is Monsel's solution, an iron-based paste that was mixed with Vaseline and was as common to a corner as an ice bucket. However, if the paste wasn't thoroughly cleaned from the cut upon healing (most times it wasn't), the iron base would crystalize beneath the skin. Gavin likened it to having shrapnel beneath the skin, and Neumann said it was "like having rocks in your head." The next time out, a fighter would cut easier and faster, with the "shrapnel" tearing through his skin when impacted by a blow.

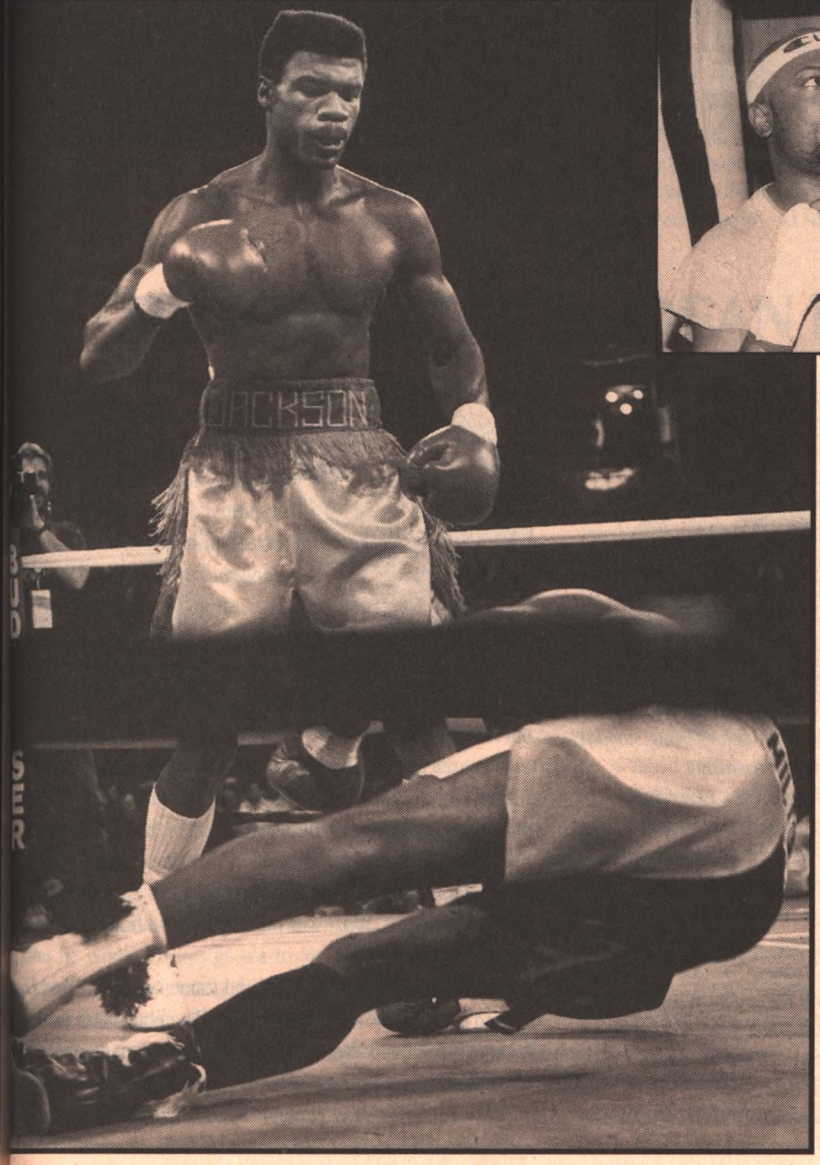
"In the old days cutmen did whatever they could," said Gavin. "There was very little knowledge, and they cared very little about cleanliness. It was stop the blood at any cost."

Today, Gavin and his clot-forming brethren use one of three coagulants, thrombin, Avitene, or adrenaline to help the blood congeal quicker. Gavin is also a firm believer in sutures rather than closing a cut with a butterfly, another ancient practice.

Gavin has been working corners since 1957, and has seen countless changes in boxing. He said he's "in favor of whatever will make the sport safer for the fighter." Also curtailing eye injuries are thumb-attached gloves. Sugar Ray Leonard led the crusade for thumbless, or thumb-attached, gloves when he returned to boxing after suffering a detached retina in 1982. Other fighters later lobbied against thumbless gloves because they inhibited a fighter's ability to make a fist. And during a fight, the boxers would often complain of numbness or cramps in their thumbs. Eventually, gloves with the thumb attached to the glove by elastic gained universal acceptance.

ng the recent world champions who have continued their careers after eye ry are middleweight Julian Jackson (below) and junior middleweight Simon n (right). The state commissions differ on their policies regarding the ing of fighters who have undergone retinal surgery.





"According to the bylaws of the Association of Boxing Commissioners, thumb-attached gloves are mandatory," said Randy Gordon, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission. "I don't know of a state that uses anything else."

Similar to Seales, Sugar Ray Leonard traces his detached left retina to a thumbing incident. Leonard, who said he was thumbed by a sparring partner, appeared to have the good sense to retire that Seales did not. He also had the money. After vowing not to jeopardize his sight for cash or glory, Leonard was met by a spate of criticism when he returned to the ring two years later. Further complicating his return was a last-minute laser procedure to close "tiny holes" in the retina of his right eye, postponing his comeback fight

(Continued on page 59)

Lightweights

Mando Ramos

Long Beach, California
Career: 1965-1975
37-11-1 with 23 kayos

Boyishly handsome and charismatic, Ramos was a Southern California sensation of the '60s. He fought for the world lightweight title at 19, won it at 20 to become the youngest champion in division history, and was washed up at 25, the victim of a reckless lifestyle that included hard drugs.

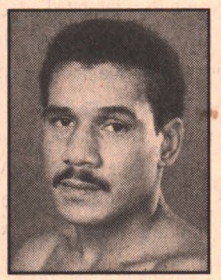
Overflowing with speed and natural boxing skills, Ramos turned pro two days after his 17th birthday and won his first 17 bouts. "He'd fight a gorilla and think he was a cinch to win," recalled his manager and trainer, Jackie McCoy.

Ramos won the world title in February 1969, stopping Teo Cruz in 11 rounds. After one successful defense, he was dethroned by Panama's Ismael Laguna. His second reign, this time as WBC champion, began in February 1972, after he outpointed Pedro Carrasco. He wore the belt for only seven months, losing by eighth-round TKO to Chango Carmona.

Ramos has controlled his addiction since 1983, the year he formed BAAD (Boxers Against Alcohol And Drugs). He has worked as a longshoreman on the Los Angeles waterfront for the past 19 years.

Edwin Rosario

Toa Baja, Puerto Rico
Career: 1979-1993
38-6 with 33 kayos

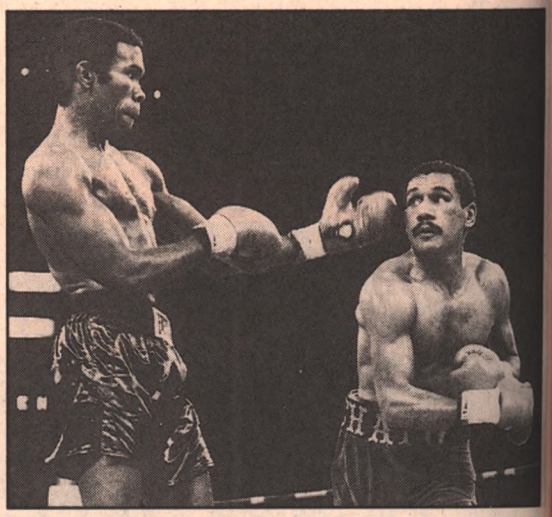


Like Ramos, Rosario was a teenage star. The well-schooled Puerto Rican turned pro as a bantamweight at age 16, and was 16-0 before turning 20. Billed as "the Duran of the '80s," he won the vacant WBC lightweight title by decisioning Mexican southpaw Jose Luis Ramirez in May 1983. He successfully defended vs. Robert Elizondo and Howard Davis Jr. before being stopped by Ramirez in the fourth round of their rematch.

While the comparisons to Duran were never validated, Rosario, a classic counterpuncher with the division's best right hand and a granite chin, went on to become only the second 135-pounder in history to win the title three times. (Jimmy Carter was the first.) In September '86, "Chapo" surprised WBA champion Livingstone Bramble (KO 2). Julio Cesar Chavez took the title in November '87 (KO by 11), but Rosario still wasn't done; he won the vacant WBA crown by stopping Anthony Jones (KO 6) in July 1989, and became a two-division champion by upsetting WBA junior welterweight king Loreto Garza (KO 3) in June 1991.

Rosario's last bout was a January 1993 loss to Frankie Randall. It's doubtful he'll ever fight again.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*



Rosario needed a last-round knockdown to reject the challenge of Howard Davis Jr. in June 1984. "Chapo" often relied on one big punch.

CARLOS ORTIZ

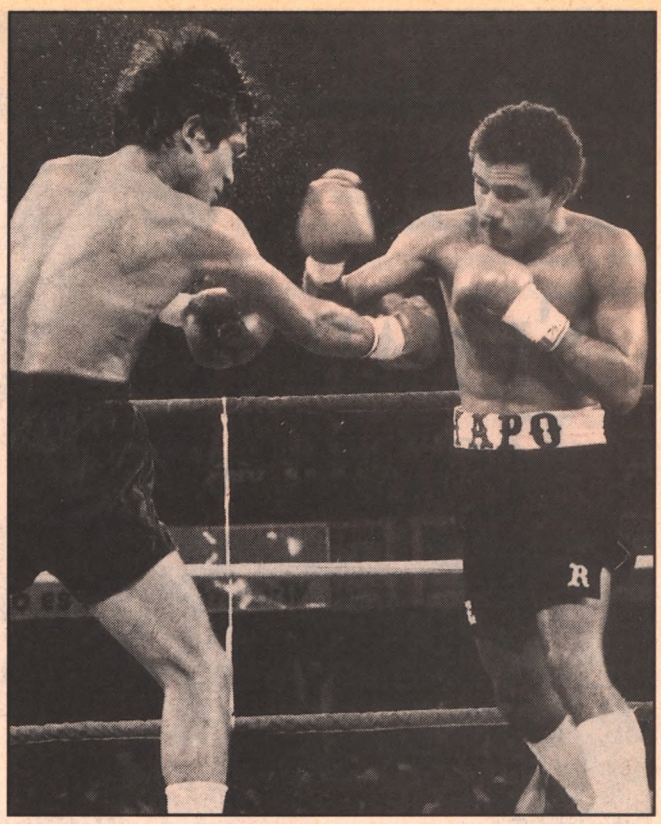
I never thought that much of Ramos as a champion. I fought out of New York and he fought out of Los Angeles, and his prime came as I was winding down. He was a stand-up boxer-puncher who moved pretty good, but the punching ability wasn't there that much. He was pretty smart for his time, but not smart like the old-time fighters. He came up very young and very fast, and that turned out to be a problem.

Rosario was a rough, tough kid, kind of like a Tommy Tibbs, a Johnny Busso, or a Lou Filippo. He was a fair boxer and a fair puncher. One of his strengths was that he had a very good chin. And a fighting heart. But I wouldn't compare him to the lightweights of my era—a Roberto Duran, an Ismael Laguna, a Joe Brown, or myself. What was missing was the finesse and the poise. Very few guys have it.

Rosario would come forward and Ramos would try and box him, try and establish distance. Rosario would outpunch him on the inside; he was the stronger lightweight. In the later rounds, the difference would be stamina. "Chapo" would rough him up and win on points.

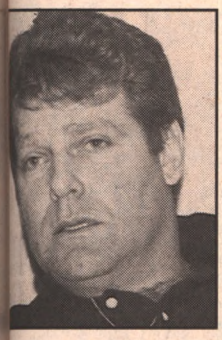
Carlos Ortiz is a former world lightweight and junior welterweight champion. He currently works as a trainer.

…os won the world title with an 11th-round stoppage of Teo Cruz in …uary 1969. He kept the crown for one defense, then regained it in 1972.



Rosario initially won the title by outpointing Mexican southpaw Jose Luis Ramirez in May 1983. In a shocking upset, he was stopped in the rematch.

…AN GOOSSEN



Ramos was very tall for a lightweight. He was a big banger, but the key thing he had was what every champion needs—a big heart. He was able to gut out a lot more wins than champions who were just good. That's what made him a *great* champion. I saw him fight at the Olympic Auditorium, and he was awkward, with good head movement. He was hard to hit for a big target, and he fought instinctively, punching from all directions. Rafael …s reminds me of him in that way. But Ramos never really reached … you might consider his prime years because of all the extracurricular …ity.

…s opposed to Ramos, Rosario was short for a lightweight champ. He …one of the best punchers out there, but he was always in tough fights …st the better competition, like Jose Luis Ramirez and Hector …acho. He'd try and crowd Ramos and make him fight. Ramos would …e him; he would always go toe to toe with you. Ramos had a great … and he'd handle anything Rosario could give him. You don't get …io out of there early, so Ramos by late-rounds stoppage.

…an Goossen is an executive vice president of Top Rank. He has …aged and/or promoted such world champions as Michael Nunn, … Norris, and Rafael Ruelas.

DEAN LOHUIS

When I was first getting into boxing, Ramos was like a god in Los Angeles. He was so immensely talented—a natural talent who was beautiful to watch—and he became one of the greatest stars of the Olympic Auditorium. Most of the fights I saw him in were early knockout wins. After his opponents got past the first few rounds he was less dangerous. He generally didn't knock people out late. Maybe that was because of his questionable conditioning.

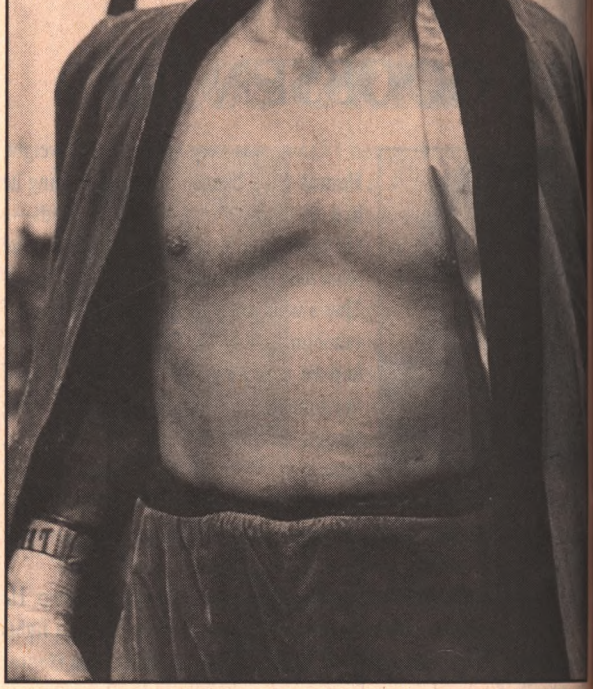
At the top of his game, Rosario was a powerpuncher with heart. He was never known for his defense, but he could take punishment; his war with Julio Cesar Chavez was one of the most brutal fights I've ever seen. Rosario scored a late knockdown to beat Howard Davis Jr. and was easily winning when he crumbled in his second fight with Jose Luis Ramirez. He was in a lot of tough fights with the better competition, and speed gave him trouble.

Ramos' advantage in speed would've been critical. Maybe I'm a bit biased because of my West Coast ties, but in a 15-round fight, I see Ramos roaring from behind, maybe hurting Rosario late, and winning a very, very close decision.

Dean Lohuis is a former correspondent for The Ring. He is a member of the WBC ratings committee and a longtime observer of the West Coast boxing scene. ■

Why The End Never Seems To Come

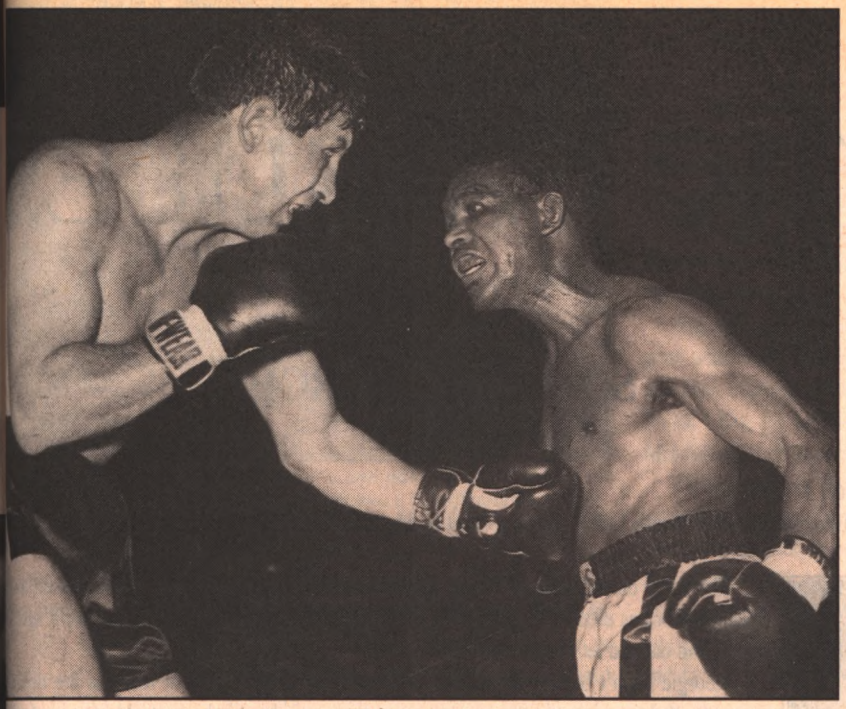
THE TWILIGHTS OF SUGAR RAY ROBINSON & ROBERTO DURAN



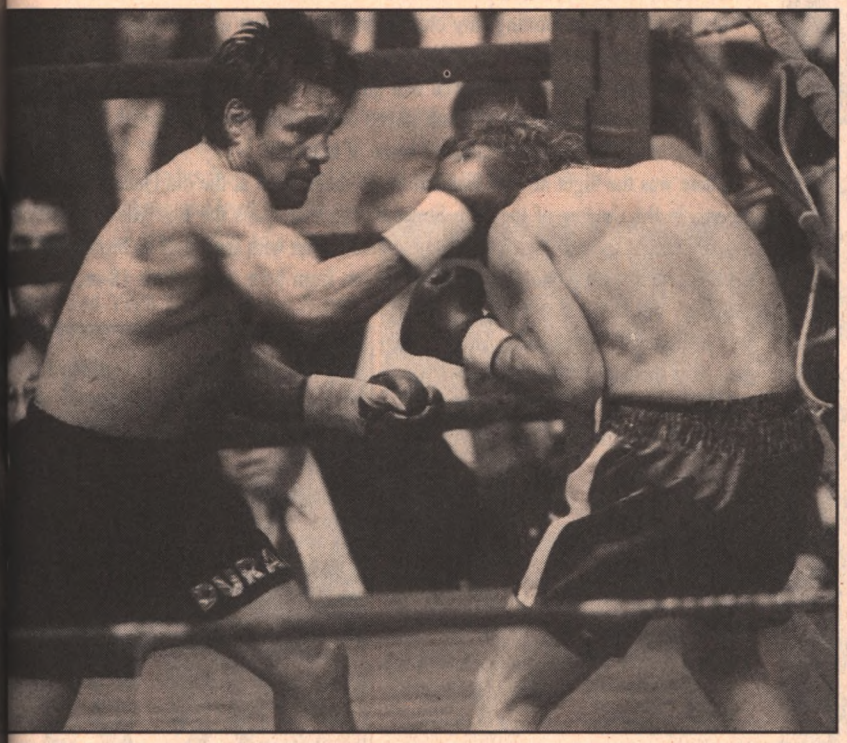
By Nigel Collins

In terms of style, they couldn't be more different. Sugar Ray Robinson was poetry in motion, the sweetest practitioner the Sweet Science has ever known. Roberto Duran is machismo personified, a swaggering assassin in silk shorts. Still, this pair of boxing legends share much in common, particularly the ability to retain a hold on the public's imagination long after their skills have faded. Comparing Duran today to Robinson during his final years in the ring reveals numerous parallels, a few notable differences, and a compelling portrait of eroding genius struggling to hold Father Time at bay.

Life after 40 is tough enough for Joe Average. The chest starts to sag, the belly begins to bulge, and mowing the lawn can lead to cardiac arrest. Imagine what it's like trying to outfox



when matched against championship-caliber opposition like Joey Giardello (above), an aging nson never embarrassed himself. Duran's strategy is obvious: Stockpile wins against no-names Tony Biglen (below) until securing a big-money fight with a contender or champion.



nted 25-year-old who's eager to add your to his trophy case. Only the finest can d their careers with any degree of success nd the boundary imposed by age, and Duran obinson have been among the select few.

obinson finally retired for good in mber 1965 at age 45, two years before n turned pro. But Sugar Ray's last great per- nce came years earlier, in March 1958, when he regained the middleweight title with a 15-round decision over Carmen Basilio. Nevertheless, he battled on for eight more years and 52 additional bouts, desperately trying to hold back the sands of time. But in the end, even the man considered the greatest fighter, pound for pound, of all-time had to concede to the ravages of time and leave the stage.

Duran's last great fight came in February 1989, when he won the WBC middleweight title with a 12-round decision over Iran Barkley. In the ensuing five years, he's fought 10 times—and has every intention of fighting on as long as promoters will pay him. He hasn't been as busy as Robinson was, but things are different today. Most of Duran's tuneups have been on cable-TV and provided respectable purses. Robinson didn't have that advantage and sometimes fought for as little as $1,500.

Even boxers of Robinson and Duran's stature fight on past their best years for a variety of reasons. But the major one is always money. Despite his many years at the top, Robinson lost heavily on his investments, including his famous bar in Harlem. A second career as a song-and-dance man failed to pan out as well as hoped. And while he was far from destitute, Sugar Ray had to continue fighting to keep himself and his entourage living in the fashion to which they had become accustomed.

According to Duran's promoter, Mike Acri, the horror stories concerning Duran's finances are exaggerated. But that doesn't mean he doesn't need the revenue generated by his latest comeback.

"All that stuff you hear is bull; Duran is not broke," said Acri. "He has some money put away from the second Leonard fight. He can't touch the principle until he's a certain age, but he lives off the interest. He also has a mansion in Panama, as well as a farm, a penthouse apartment, and a small apartment building. The problem is that so many people live off him that the interest money is always gone by April. Despite his assets, he's cash-short."

Pride also plays a role, albeit a secondary one, in these time bandits' efforts to prolong their careers as long as possible. What artist wants to face up to the fact he is no longer the master of his craft? For men of Robinson and Duran's caliber, fighting is not just a big part of them, it *is* them.

In January 1960, Robinson lost the title to Paul Pender. After that, his already-deteriorating skills continued to wane. A decision loss to Joey Giardello in June 1963 pretty much finished him as a legitimate contender, but Robinson plugged on. His name still ensured steady, if not especially lucrative, employment, and he maintained a breakneck schedule, traveling from state to state and country to country in what turned out to be an extended farewell tour.

Duran and Robinson followed a similar pattern in trying to squeeze the last few dollars out of their well-worn bodies. The strategy then, as

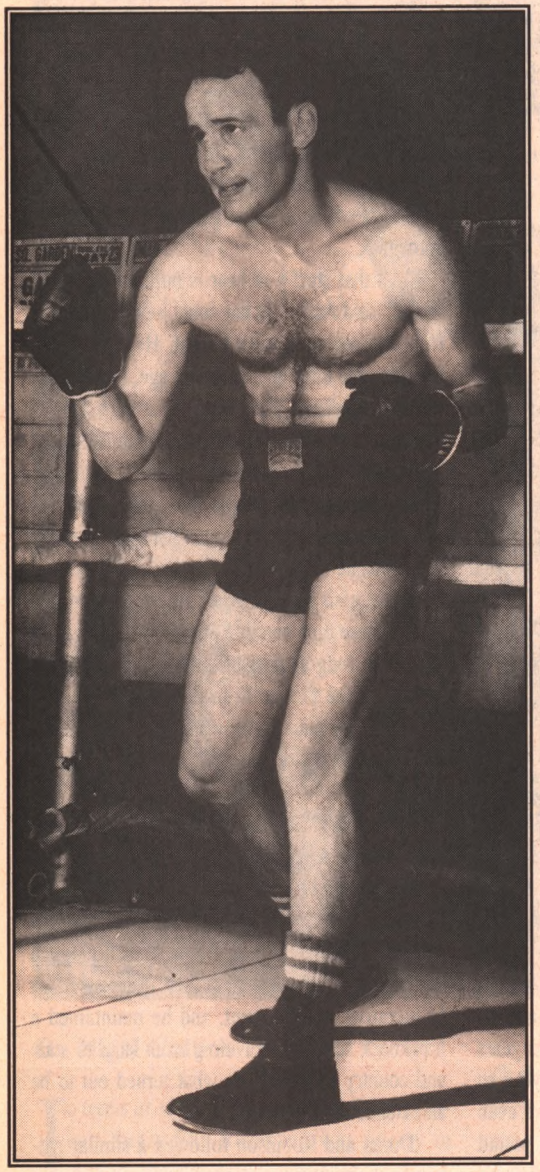
(Continued on page 60)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

Time CAPSULES

SO LONG, GEORGIE

(July 14, 1994)
"Georgie Abrams' Death Left A Gaping Void In My Life That Can Never Be Filled"



Abrams at his peak, training for his middleweight title fight with Tony Zale in 1941. An eye injury suffered in the second round cost him his chance at victory.

The voice on the phone: "I have some bad news. An old buddy of yours passed away. Georgie Abrams died in Vegas. I'm not sure when, exactly, but it wasn't too long ago. I'll try to find out and let you know."

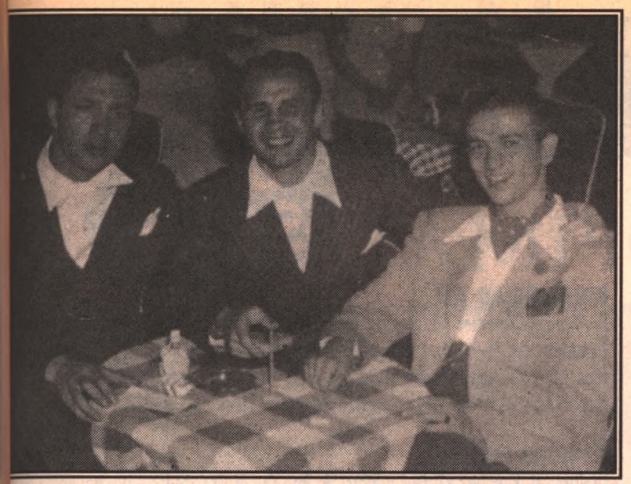
Georgie hadn't been well. He'd been deteriorating for years out there in the desert. I heard he had trouble remembering his own name, and that his highest pleasure was riding around the Vegas Strip on his bicycle, perhaps hoping to hear somebody he had never seen before shout, "Aren't you Georgie Abrams?"

In my 57 years in boxing, my closest friend was that always-smiling, soft-spoken Virginian who enjoyed gently chewing on a half-stick of spearmint gum. You knew he was a gentleman from the way he chewed that gum. He didn't chomp, like a gorilla stripping away a bamboo stalk. Georgie's mouth stayed closed. Only his jaw moved. Class. The man had lots of class. He also had a fabulous sense of humor.

There was the night he was featured in the main event at the old Queensboro Arena in Queens, in the shadow of the 59th Street Bridge that spans the East River in New York City. Georgie's opponent was a granite-chinned Italian with shoulders so broad they looked like eight-inch wide wood planks stretching out from both sides of his 18-inch neck. Vic Dellicurti got his kicks trying to break guys in half with body shots. He was so good at it that he was ranked seventh at middleweight in the May 1941 issue of THE RING. And in June of that year, he shot up to fifth.

The closest of pals, Abrams (left) and Stanley Weston at Long Beach, New York, in 1939. Weston remembers his long-time friend as a true Southern gentleman.

Like they say in the business, getting work for rough, tough guys like Dellicurti ain't easy. But Abrams thrived on Dellicurti types throughout his 10-year professional career. I sat just beneath Georgie's corner that night and watched in awe as he jabbed, ducked, feinted, blocked, and danced with rare artistry. In the third round, while knotting Dellicurti in a clinch, Georgie caught my eye. He grinned and shouted just loud enough for me to hear, "Comin' around again, Stan." So perfect was his control of the situation that he forced Dellicurti from one corner of the ring to the other, and each time they moved near where I sat, Georgie would wink at me and then start waltzing around again.



rams (center), Stanley Weston (right), and adviser Ben Cohn at the radise Club in Atlantic City. The Boardwalk was a bit different back then.

It worried me when Georgie's legendary manager, Chris Dundee, ched him against probably the hardest-hitting middleweight in the trade, nie Vigh. Abrams and Vigh had sparred more than 100 rounds in man's Gym, so each was well aware of what the other could, and could do. Vigh, like Dellicurti, was built like a tank, close to the ground, with ulders a mile long. But Ernie could belt a lot harder than Vic. A couple mes he actually caught and staggered Georgie in the gym—with 16-ce pillow gloves. *My God, if he tags my Georgie with eight-ounce tools o, I don't even want to think about it.*

At breakfast one morning, about a week before the fight, I warned rgie to "watch this guy every second. Don't take any chances. Stick and Stay away. *Far* away. Run if you have to ..." Georgie never stopped ing Corn Flakes into his face. Now and then he came up for air, smiled infectious grin of his, and tried to calm me n. Imagine, *he* was trying to calm *me* !

Abrams and Vigh fought at the Bronx seum before an SRO crowd, and Vigh laid a glove on him. A 10-round shutout y Georgie. Magnificent. Perfection. It get any better than that.

***

The true artistry of Georgie Abrams snaps ndeniable focus when measured against qually true artistry of Billy Soose. Like ms, Soose was a master boxer. And also Georgie, Billy wasn't much of a puncher. ugh it carried about as much weight in ring as a drop of sweat, Soose had thing no other world champion in history claim—a real, honest-to-goodness e degree (from Penn State).

oose's career was short, only five years 8-1942). In 1941, he won the world eweight crown from Ken Overlin. Billy, nd with long arms, a trigger brain, a rkably sturdy chin—he was never ed—and guts to spare, had only one m: Mr. Georgie Abrams. Soose lost six decisions; and half of them came against Abrams. How many times did they fight? Three, of course.

***

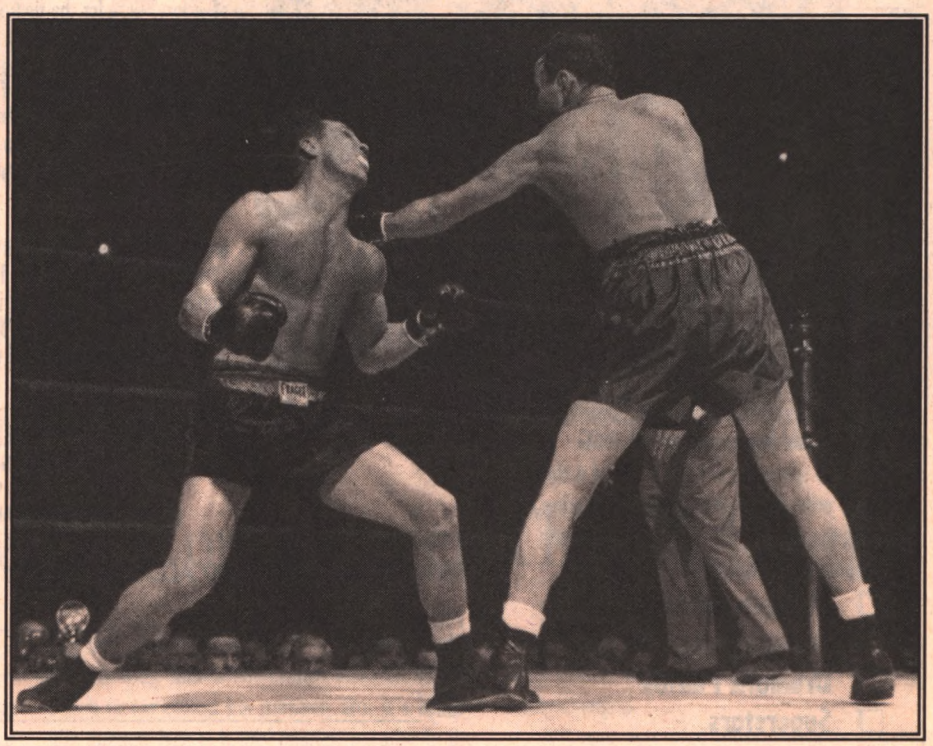
It always was, as it always will be, the dream of every man and boy who ever chose the Sweet Science as a profession to get an opportunity to fight for a world title. Even if unsuccessful, one could always say proudly, "I fought for the so-and-so championship of the whole world." That in itself is a badge of honor, an initiation into a very special and elite corps of almost-wases. Abrams was inducted the night of November 28, 1941, at New York's Cathedral of Pain, Madison Square Garden.

The lone obstacle standing between Georgie and the immortality that goes with being king was a sandy-haired assassin with piercing blue eyes and fists capable of chopping bone. He was aptly tagged "The Man Of Steel." But he was introduced as Tony Zale. From Gary, Indiana. Middleweight champion of the world.

Georgie was in flawless condition, physically and mentally, for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Zale knows how to fight only one way," Georgie said after Dundee made the match. "He always bulls toward you, looking to catch you with that left hook to the gut. You've got to keep moving all the time. Never give him an open shot. He's slow on his feet, so you circle around him. Always keep circling. That will throw off his timing and he'll miss a lot. Stay away from clinches. He'll kill you in close with that left hook ..."

Georgie stuck to his strategy and kept circling in between pumping jabs into Zale's snoot. He caught Tony just right in the first round, and down went the champion for a short count. But a terrible thing happened in the second round: Georgie, while backing away from a right lead, got caught flush in the eye with a crushing left hook. By the fourth round the eye was shut tight. He was literally half-blind. It took every drop of his extraordinary skill and courage to still be on his feet when the bell ended round 15, and to

(Continued on page 62)



Abrams jolts back the head of world middleweight champion Tony Zale in the opening round of their November 1941 title fight. Georgie courageously fought with the sight of only one eye from the second round on, losing a 15-round decision. So severe was the damage, it was feared he might lose the eye.

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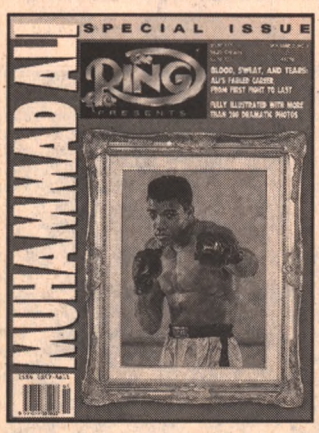

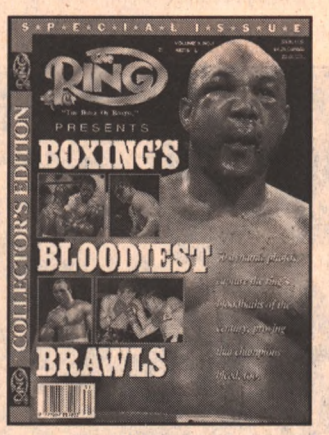

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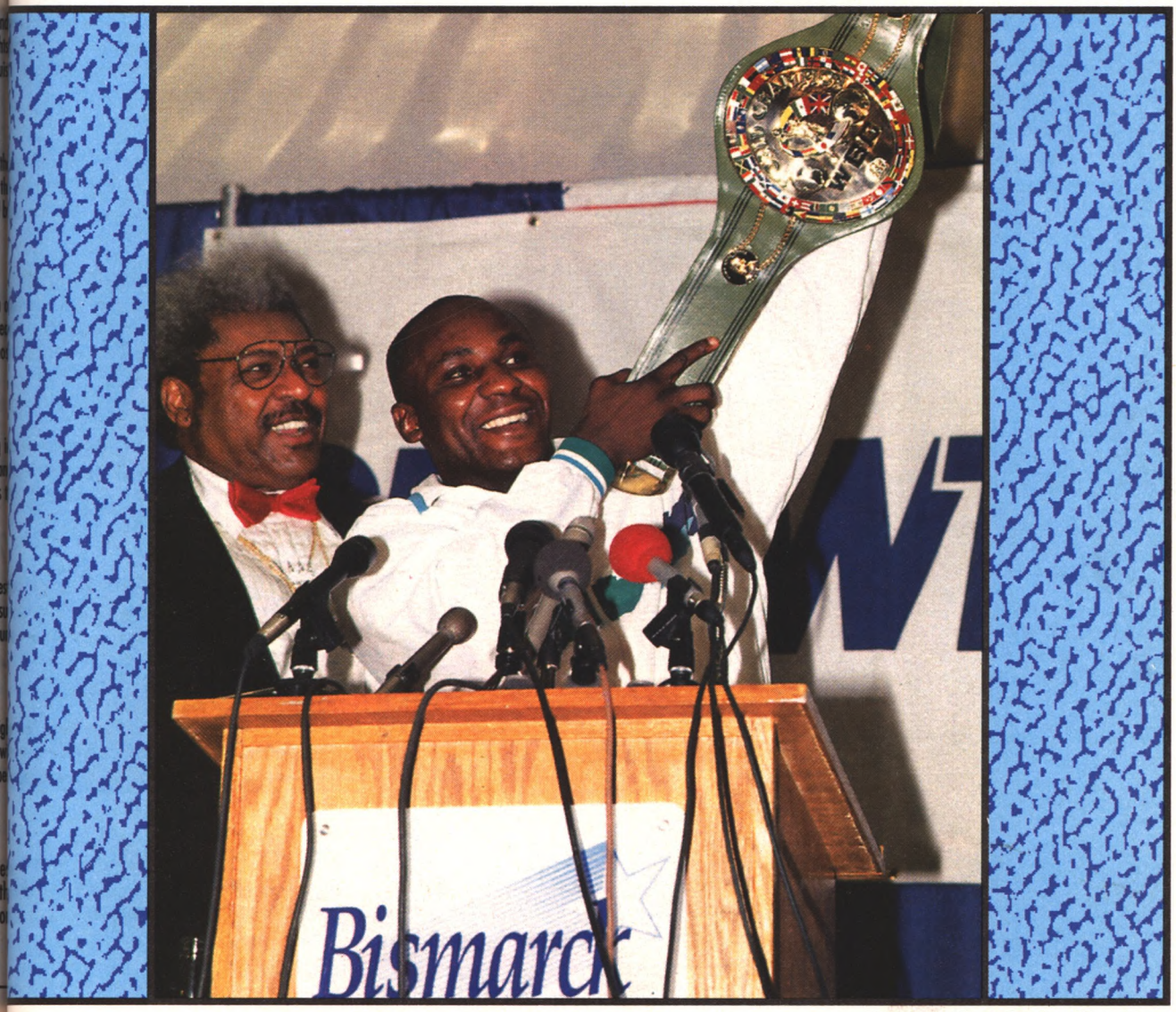
MIKE McCALLUM:
A CHAMPION AGAIN



Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime

itles Have Always Come Easier Than Adulation

Steve Farhood

sounds kind of funny when a three-division champion like Mike McCallum talks about having lacked opportunity. It's sort of like ren Beatty bemoaning the fact that he never met any good-looking babes or Michael Jordan complaining that when crunch time came, the coach never called his number. But it's hardly idle chatter. Nor is it *idol* chatter, because in the '80s, when boxing's spotlight shined on a handful of superstars, McCallum fought in the shadows. And in the '90s, with most of those superstars retired or fighting on memory, nothing's really changed.

A decade ago, McCallum sought three names on his dance card: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, and Thomas Hearns. During one of his

McCallum battered Harding with hooks to the chin (above) and body (right). Walking in for all 12 rounds, the Australian provided an easy target.

sundry retirement speeches, Leonard said of a proposed bout against Marvin Hagler, "It'll never happen." Maybe he meant a fight with McCallum.

When Duran was WBA junior middleweight champion, McCallum was the number-one contender. Duran fought Hearns instead.

While stablemates at the Kronk gym, Hearns and McCallum sparred countless rounds together. Emanuel Steward saw each and every punch, which is why he never dared match Hearns with McCallum in a real fight.

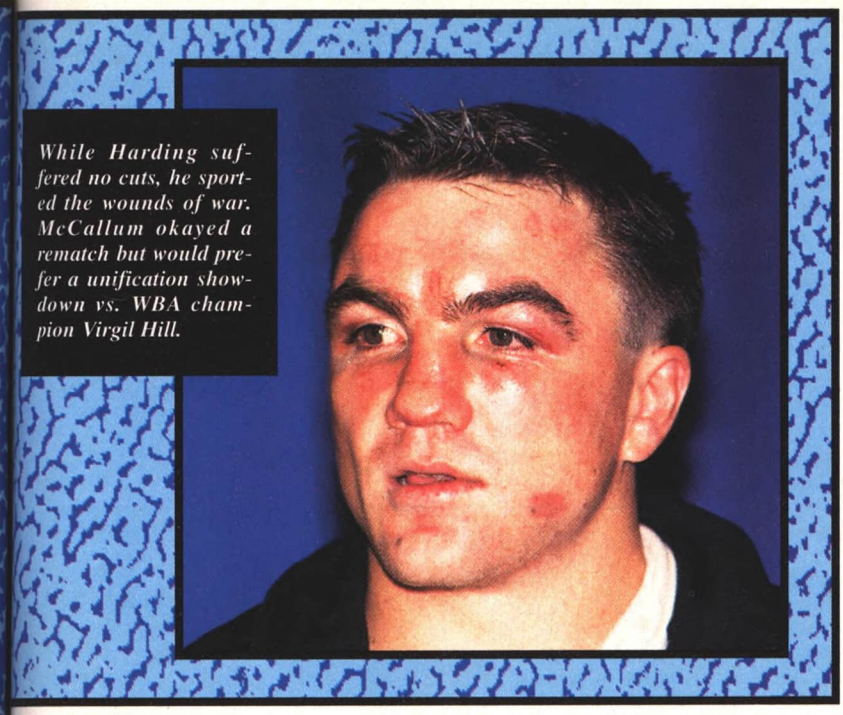
In the '80s, McCallum became a champion. But it's easy to see why he never became a star.

"I'm still fighting good at this stage, and it still crosses my mind how big I'd be if I had fought them," McCallum, the newly crowned WBC light heavyweight champion, said of Leonard, Duran, and Hearns. "I could've beaten them and been a *grand* champion. I was bitter, and a little bit jealous, because I knew I could've done better. But you understand as you get older why some things happen."

Maybe it isn't fair, but fighters are sometimes remembered as much for who they *didn't* fight as for their accomplishments and triumphs. It's that way for Evander Holyfield, who won titles in two divisions, but never faced Mike Tyson. And it'll always be that way for McCallum, who's won titles in *three* divisions. One of the greatest fighters of his era, McCallum is regarded as the ultimate technician. His trainer, Eddie Futch, pays him the highest compliment when he says McCallum would have excelled in *any* era. But the fact remains that McCallum has been crowned after defeating three forgettable opponents, Sean Mannion, Herol Graham, and, on July 23, in Las Vegas, Jeff Harding. And only Harding was a defending champion.

"Winning the title by beating a reigning titlist for the first time ... that's one special aspect of this one," said an ebullient McCallum. "But I have different values now. When I was younger, I got off on winning a championship, being *the man*. Now I know I have to live beyond boxing. I have to make a lot of money. You can make a lot in this sport, but if you're not careful, you still won't have any. The titles are still important, but so is securing my future."

One day after speaking with The Ring, the triple-crown champion flew from his home in Las Vegas to Brooklyn, where he lived for most of his career. A day after that, he traveled to his native Jamaica. McCallum doesn't live in a fan-



While Harding suffered no cuts, he sported the wounds of war. McCallum okayed a rematch but would prefer a unification showdown vs. WBA champion Virgil Hill.

world; he knows that while boxing insiders talking about his typically meticulous win Harding, the general public still doesn't who he is. In Jamaica, however, they don't care that he never fought Leonard, Duran, ms, or anyone else. They accept him for what and what he's done. This seems a good time everyone else to do the same.

There's no denying a lack of big-name com- tion has affected McCallum's status. But 's not the only reason he's never been a head- r. McCallum doesn't talk much trash or he at press conferences. In fact, when James ey exploded after his first bout with "The dysnatcher," he went after Milt Chwasky, Callum's lawyer, and not McCallum. And n Randall Yonker laughed at McCallum at press conference before their bout in March talked about what he was going to do to "the man," McCallum seemed ready to erupt. But r Futch sent a calming gesture his way, he ored the taunting. A few days later, he hered Yonker in five rounds.

McCallum doesn't climb through the ropes ring Indian feathers, an executioner's hood, ay-glow colors. And you don't read about his ing arrested for hitting cops or selling drugs. hat sense, he's boring. "In a weird way, it's me not being in the news in that way," he nowledged. "You don't hear anything about except the talk about my age."

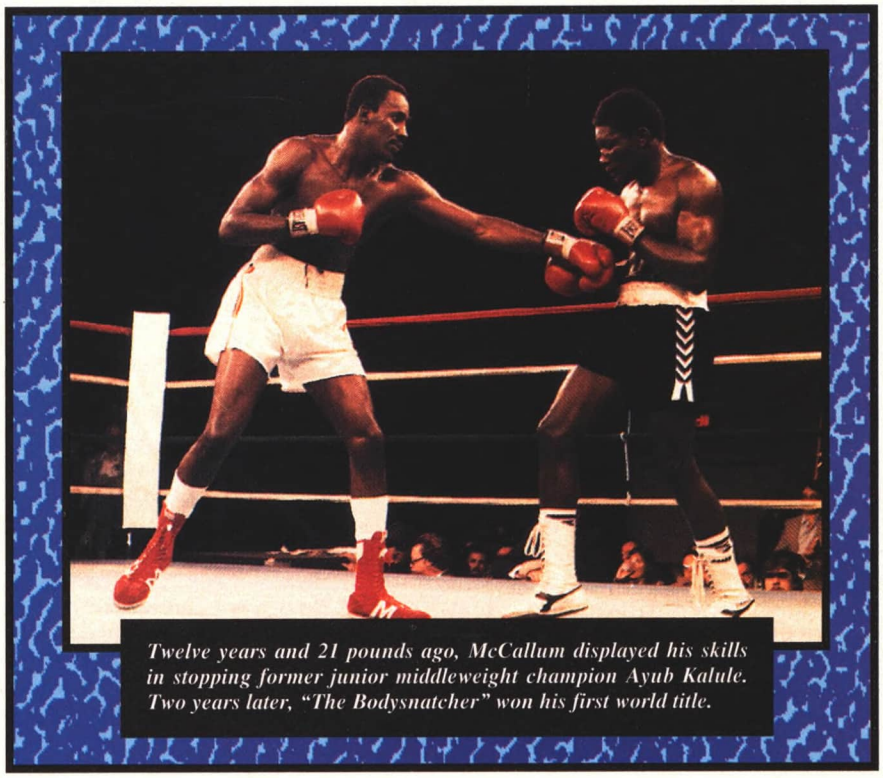
As far as controversies go, McCallum's age sn't exactly create the same debate as the ody glove in the O.J. Simpson case. McCallum says he's 37. Until he sends a copy of his birth certificate to boxing writers across the globe, however, most will continue to assume he turned pro on a card featuring Gene Fullmer and Joey Giardello. He won the vacant WBA junior middleweight title 10 years ago, then added the vacant WBA middleweight title in 1989. After a draw and loss at 160 pounds to Toney in 1991 and '92, respectively, he took Futch's advice and jumped all the way to light heavyweight. The bout with the 29-year-old Harding was twice postponed, and when it finally came together, it landed—what a surprise—on the undercard at someone else's party; the main event at the Bismarck Civic Center was local hero and WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill vs. Frank Tate.

Making the third defense of his second reign, Harding hadn't fought in 19 months. Still, McCallum, a 4-1 favorite, was fully prepared. "I saw a tough fight," he said. "I didn't look at his layoff. I knew he was a warrior, but I also knew he couldn't box with me. He was gonna try and run me out of the ring."

While the Australian champion produced an earnest effort, the difference in class and skills was instantly apparent. The first round was a microcosm of the fight. McCallum, 174½, opened with hooks that snuck around Harding's high guard and jabs that split the champion's gloves. Then he began to rake Harding's body with hooks. If a rusty Harding, 174, Sydney, Australia, was going to work his way into his rhythm, he had picked the wrong opponent.

In the third, Harding shortened the distance between the fighters, but McCallum repeatedly changed angles and scored with uppercuts on the inside. In the fourth, referee Marty Denkin penalized McCallum for punching low. McCallum kept mixing his attack, however, and in the sixth

(Continued on page 54)



Twelve years and 21 pounds ago, McCallum displayed his skills in stopping former junior middleweight champion Ayub Kalule. Two years later, "The Bodysnatcher" won his first world title.

Photo by Craig Peters

FROM FITZSIMMONS TO McCALLUM

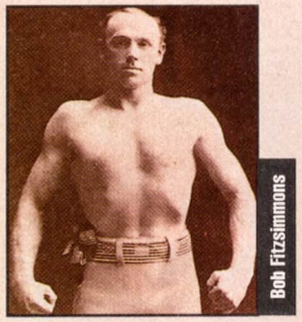
BOXING'S MULTI-TITLISTS

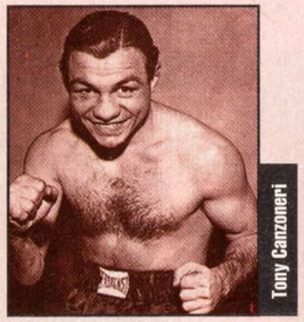
Compiled by Steve Farhood

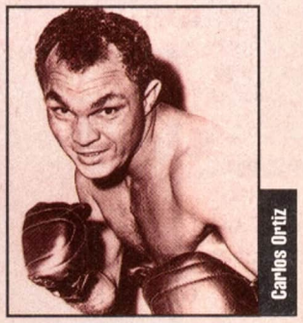
With his points victory over defending WBC light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding, Mike McCallum became the 16th fighter in history to win world titles in three or more divisions. (In this era of alphabet organizations, THE RING recognizes only the WBA, WBC, and IBF.) Listed below are the 67 fighters who have won two or more world titles.

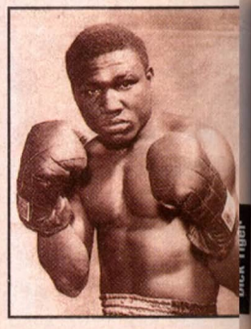
To put the accomplishment in perspective, keep in mind there once were eight divisions and one champion per. Today, there are *17* divisions and *three* champions per. From 1897 to 1980 (83 years), there were 26 champions who won at least two world titles. From 1980 to 1994 (14 years), there have been an additional 41. Interestingly, only three men on this list won the heavyweight title: Bob Fitzsimmons, Michael Spinks and Evander Holyfield.

CHAMPION	TITLES WON	DIVISIONS	THE SKINNY
Sugar Ray Leonard	5	w, jm, m, sm, lh	Won last two crowns in same fight, vs. Don Lalonde
Thomas Hearns	4	w, jm, m, lh	Will soon try for fifth title, at cruiser
Roberto Duran	4	l, w, jm, m	Could've won five titles, but skipped jr. welter
Bob Fitzsimmons*	3	m, lh, h	Last crown came at light heavy, won at age 40
Tony Canzoneri*	3	f, l, jw	Also fought for bantam title, at age 18
Barney Ross*	3	l, jw, w	Won light and jr. welter titles in same fight, vs. Canzoneri
Henry Armstrong*	3	f, l, w	Only fighter to simultaneously hold titles in three divisions
Emile Griffith	3	w, jm, m	Jr. middle title was European world crown
Wilfred Benitez	3	jw, w, jm	Won jr. welter title at age 17; youngest ever champ at any weight
Alexis Arguello	3	f, jl, l	Tried for fourth title, but was kayoed by jr. welter champ Aaron Pryor
Wilfredo Gomez	3	jf, f, jl	All-time great, but didn't deserve verdict vs. Rocky Lockridge at jr. light
Jeff Fenech	3	b, jf, f	Was denied fourth title due to bad decision in bout vs. Azumah Nelson
Julio Cesar Chavez	3	jl, l, jw	Fought controversial draw vs. welter champ Pernell Whitaker in '93
Iran Barkley	3	m, sm, lh	Overachiever was surprise champ at all three weights
Pernell Whitaker	3	l, jw, w	Welter win over Buddy McGirt gave him title as world's best fighter
Mike McCallum	3	jm, m, lh	Could've won four titles, but skipped super middle


Bob Fitzsimmons

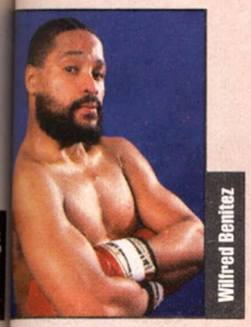

Tony Canzoneri

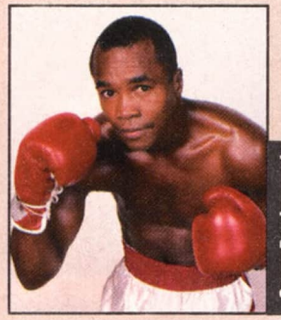

Carlos Ortiz

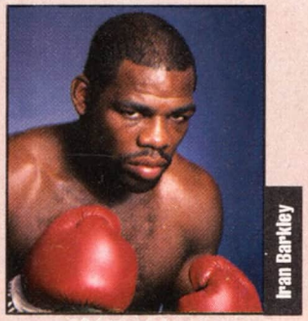


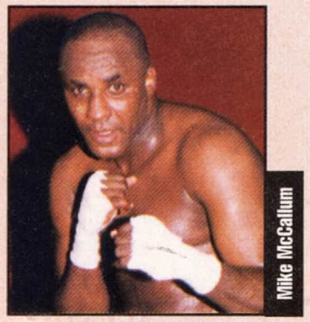
Tommy Ryan*	2	w, m	Prime was in 1890s; lost only four of 104 career bouts
Terry McGovern*	2	b, f	Fought at turn of century; first of non-heavyweight kayo artists
Johnny Dundee*	2	f, jl	Won jr. light title first; never defended feather crown
Mickey Walker*	2	w, m	"Toy Bulldog" fought for light heavy title and faced heavyweights, too
Benny Bass	2	f, jl	Tiny Russian-born terror dethroned long-reigning Tod Morgan at jr. light
Kid Chocolate	2	f, jl	Won both titles and fought for lightweight crown in 15-month period from 1931-'32
Lou Brouillard	2	w. m	Canadian southpaw held welter crown only three months
Harry Jeffra*	2	b, f	Made only one successful defense in two reigns
Sandy Saddler*	2	f, jl	Best known as feather; in '49, became first jr. light titlist in 16 years
Sugar Ray Robinson*	2	w, m	Had light heavy title all but won when collapsed from heat vs. Joey Maxim
Carmen Basilio*	2	w, m	Scaled only 153½ when dethroned middle king Robinson in '57
Carlos Ortiz*	2	l, jw	Won long-vacant jr. welter title in '59, then dropped down to 135
Fighting Harada*	2	fl, b	Should've won feather crown, too, but was robbed vs. Johnny Famechon
Dick Tiger*	2	m, lh	Dethroned light heavy champ Jose Torres as 5'8", 167-pounder
Nino Benvenuti*	2	jm, m	Was 65-0 when dethroned at 154 pounds by Ki Soo Kim in '66
Kuniaki Shibata*	2	f, jl	Underrated; beat Vicente Saldivar and Ben Villaflor, and drew with Ernesto Marcel

CHAMPION	TITLES WON	DIVISIONS	THE SKINNY
...Jofre	2	b, f	Brazilian legend won feather crown eight years after dethroned at bantam
...n Olivares	2	b, f	Mexican left hooker won 118- and 126-pound crowns twice each
...Kwan Hong	2	b, jf	Rugged Korean was first WBA jr. feather champ
...dy Castillo	2	jfl, fl	Inconsistent Mexican held world titles for combined six months
...ky Chacon	2	f, jl	Reborn late in career; won jr. light title seven years after losing feather crown
...ht Muhammad Qawi	2	lh, c	Former Dwight Braxton emerged from prison to dominate at two weights
...or Camacho	2	jl, l	Speedy southpaw was one of most gifted champs of star-studded '80s
...o Pintor	2	b, jf	Made eight successful defenses at 118, but was faded by time he moved to 122
...ael Spinks	2	lh, h	Only reigning light heavy in history to win world heavyweight title
...n Zapata	2	jfl, fl	Panamanian southpaw enjoyed strong reigns at both weights
...o Boy Penalosa	2	jfl, fl	Filipino was first IBF jr. fly champ; nothing special at 112
...os Laciar	2	fl, jb	Tiny Argentine was dominant in two reigns at fly; made nine successful defenses
...er Mayweather	2	jl, jw	Vegas veteran never fought for lightweight title; still active
...ardo Pinango	2	b, jf	Slick Venezuelan dethroned solid champs in Gaby Canizales and Julio Gervacio
...ah Nelson	2	f, jl	If he doesn't retire, future hall of famer will likely try for 135-pound crown
...el Zaragoza	2	b, jf	Steady Mexican remains active; has engaged in 13 title fights at 122 pounds
...ld Curry	2	w, jm	As unified welter champ, was considered by some to be best fighter in world
...g Kil Moon	2	jb, b	World champ in seventh pro fight; won 118-pound title, then dropped down
...der Holyfield*	2	c, h	Greatest cruiser ever, but overachiever at heavy; made $100-million in purses
...n Jackson	2	jm, m	In late-'80s and early-'90s, considered hardest puncher in game
...ck Taylor	2	jw, w	September rematch at 140 with J.C. Chavez probably coming too late
...y Czyz	2	lh, c	After mixed results at 160, success at higher weights somewhat of a surprise
...n Van Horn	2	jm, sm	Strange career; skipped over 160, and wins when least expected
...n Rosario	2	l, jw	With Jimmy Carter, only three-time champ at 135; badly faded at 140
...Pazienza	2	l, jm	The incredible expanding man; now a top-10 contender at *super* middle
...Perez	2	b, jf	Mexican stringbean (5'11") made eight successful defenses at 118


Wilfred Benitez


Sugar Ray Leonard


Iran Barkley


Mike McCallum

...y McGirt	2	jw, w	Pound-for-pound entrant has been dethroned by M. Taylor (jw) and P. Whitaker (w)
...l Ioka	2	s, jfl	First WBC straw champ; dethroned legendary Myung Woo Yuh at 108
...do Vasquez	2	b, jf	Underrated Puerto Rican puncher is 33 and still dominant at jr. feather
...Gamache	2	jl, l	Highly skilled, but won vacant titles against humble competition
...el Nunn	2	m, sm	A successful disappointment; was supposed to be dominant middle of '90s
...Lopez	2	jl, l	Still active as jr. welter; could become triple-crown champ
...s Toney	2	m, sm	Best fighter in world? Will likely add light heavy crown before too long
...Gamez	2	s, jfl	First WBA straw champ; Venezuelan puncher currently reigns at 108
...n Brown	2	w, sm	Warrior at welter; surprise winner vs. Terry Norris at jr. middle in late-'93

...notes undisputed champion

...sion Key: h-heavyweight; c-cruiserweight; lh-light heavyweight; sm-super middleweight; m-middleweight; jm-junior middleweight; ...elterweight; jw-junior welterweight; l-lightweight; jl-junior lightweight; f-featherweight; jf-junior featherweight; b-bantamweight; ...ior bantamweight; fl-flyweight; jfl-junior flyweight; s-strawweight

JAMES TONEY:

LIGHTS OUT FOR PRINCE CHARLES . . .

Bring On Roy Jones!

Photos by Tom Casino/HBO

By Phil Berger

It came as no surprise that in the days before his title defense against Prince Charles Williams, IBF super middleweight champion James Toney was fighting-mad.

Toney without a grievance is like a doughnut without a hole. This time around, Toney's gripe was not just with Williams but with the MGM Grand, the Las Vegas casino that hosted the July 29 match.

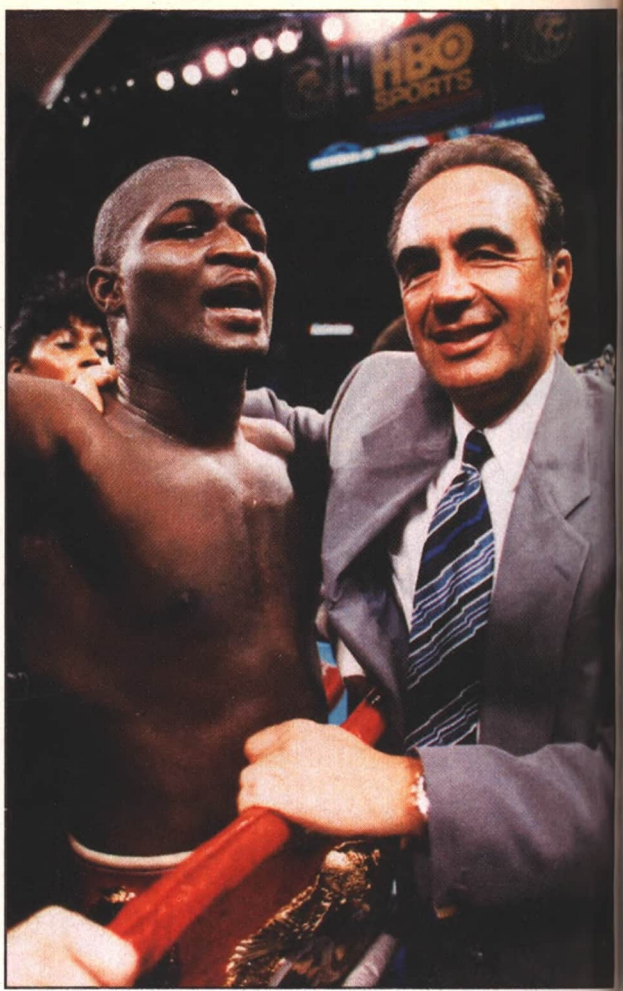
At the final prefight press conference, Toney insisted the casino had "disrespected" him by its promotional emphasis on the other headliner on the card, Oscar De La Hoya. De la Hoya, who is from nearby Los Angeles, was fighting Jorge Paez.

"This is my last time fighting here," said ney of the MGM Grand. "I don't like this el. They disrespect me by putting De La Hoya t, then they give me this sorry-ass room. I'm going to bitch about it. I'll take care of it day night."

For Toney, that grumbling was hardly a novelty. Ever since May 1991, when he burst into national prominence with his shocking knockout of IBF middleweight champion Michael Nunn in the defending titlist's hometown of Davenport, Iowa, Toney has been boxing's angry man.

At the weigh-in before that match, Toney took exception to Nunn's patronizing him. When Nunn patted him on the head and needled him, Toney had to be restrained by handlers from going after the champion. For Toney, it wasn't the usual prefight theatrics. He was genuinely agitated.

Williams forced phone booth warfare, and Toney responded with ripping uppercuts like this one. Once the Prince backed off, Toney, who continues to make a case he deserves to be considered boxing's best, pounded him at will.



Among those to congratulate Toney was well-known attorney Robert Shapiro, who is representing O.J. Simpson. Toney has sparred with Shapiro. It's lucky for the lawyer "Lights Out" pulled his punches.

That susceptibility to anger has not diminished since Toney became champion. The fighter nicknamed "Lights Out" has been an ultra-active titleholder, taking on all comers and acting as if each of them was an insult to his glory. Once, when Mike McCallum's attorney, Milt Chwasky, spoke out for his fighter at the press conference following their first fight, Toney thought he had been dissed and was about to leap from the stage to get at the bespectacled attorney before handlers restrained him.

That readiness to rumble extends to the ring, where discretion is usually the better part of valor. Not for Toney, who fights as often as sunny days in the tropics—and without apparent concern that a bad night could end what has become, after all, a profitable business. Toney was to make $1.2-million for fighting Williams, who earned a mere fraction of that—$250,000.

But Toney talks, and acts, as though he fears nothing and no one. From the time he rallied to beat Nunn and become champion, he has taken on one strong opponent after another—McCallum twice, Iran Barkley, Tony Thornton, Tim Littles—and not been beaten. (Most ringside observers had Toney winning his first match against McCallum, which the judges scored a draw.)

And with each victory, he seems propelled to aim higher, in a headlong rush for greatness, even envisioning himself fighting heavyweights some day. That heavyweight notion may be just a fighter's fantasy, but with Toney ... who knows? For Toney, it is clear, wants more than just the spoils of victory: He wants to be acknowledged as a special case—boxing's best, pound for pound—and as a fighter time will remember.

Certainly he has shown the knack of rising to the challenge, with his best performances being reserved for his toughest foes: against McCallum the first time they fought, in 1991, and against Barkley, when he stepped up to the super middleweight division in February 1993, after several undistinguished bouts as a middleweight straining to make the 160-pound limit. Each time he surpassed his previous performances—and by plenty.

It's taken a while for Toney to secure the recognition he deserves. Back when he knocked out Nunn, his victory was so unexpected that after the postfight press conference, reporters who knew little about Toney—and didn't figure to need to know more after Nunn fought him—asked the new champion to stay behind and fill them in on his biographical details.

Toney obliged, talking them through the sometimes bumpy journey he'd made to a world title. He acknowledged, without exploring it too deeply, an interlude during which he'd been a crack dealer in his hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan. As he spoke, his mother, Sherri, a college graduate and the proprietor of a bake shop, was at his side. It was through her influence, Toney said, that eventually he reformed.

The other woman in his life back then was

(Continued on page 55)

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The First Great Black Heavyweight

HOW TOM MOLINEAUX WAS ROBBED OF THE WORLD TITLE

By Patrick Myler

A lonely pauper's grave somewhere on Ireland's rocky west coast, its exact location unknown, marks the odd final resting place of a former slave who was cheated of recognition as the first black American to rule world heavyweight boxing.

Tom Molineaux, born in Georgetown, South Carolina, and reared on a Virginia plantation, had used his natural strength and prowess with his fists to earn his freedom and challenge the mighty Tom Cribb, champion of England. Only shameful intervention by Cribb's cornermen saved the title passing to the gifted visitor. As England was at that period the undisputed kingdom of bare-knuckle prize fighting, victory for Molineaux would have meant ring supremacy passing to an American and, even more horrifying to contemplate—a *black* American.

If Cribb could not win on merit, then desperate measures were necessary to protect the crown for England. And what happened at Copthall Common, halfway between London and Brighton, on December 18, 1810, was blatant robbery.

Molineaux had arrived in England in 1809 calling himself American champion, although there was no record of his career to date. He was befriended by another black American fighter, Bill Richmond, who backed him financially while introducing him to the English pugilistic scene. Convincing wins over Jack Burrows and Tom Blake set him up for the challenge to Cribb, one of England's most celebrated bare-fist title-holders. Cribb had twice defeated another renowned English champion, Jem Belcher, in lengthy battles, proving his courage and endurance as well as his hitting power. Molineaux's patron, Richmond, had also been beaten by Cribb in a grueling encounter lasting an hour-and-a-half, so he was able to pass on the benefits of his experience to his countryman.

Neither the strong wind, the biting cold, nor the rain that came down in torrents could subdue the enthusiasm of the 5,000 spectators who gathered to witness the historic international showdown. Among the ringsiders were four former English champions, Dan Mendoza, "Gentleman" John Jackson, Belcher, and John Gully, the only pugilist who graduated to membership of the British Parliament. The Prince of Wales, a keen follower of the sport, had to absent himself because of a

Tom Cribb was the heavyweight champion of England in the early 1800s. His two battles with Molineaux, both kayo victories, were classics of the British bare-knuckle era.

recent death in the British royal family, but he sent his messenger with full instructions to note every detail of the battle and write out a full report for him.

Molineaux cut an impressive figure when he stripped to step into the ring. Although only 5'8", his muscular frame drew much praise. At 26, he was three years younger than the English champion. Cribb, too, was strongly built and weighed about 196 pounds, the same as his opponent. He was two inches the taller man.

All around the 25-foot ring, straw had been scattered over the squelching mud. Only the rich ringsiders were provided with seats. Those behind either stood or perched precariously on the tops of coaches.

The fight was under the rules drawn up in 1743 by Jack Broughton, the former English champion, and would end only when either man was unfit to continue or they agreed to a draw.

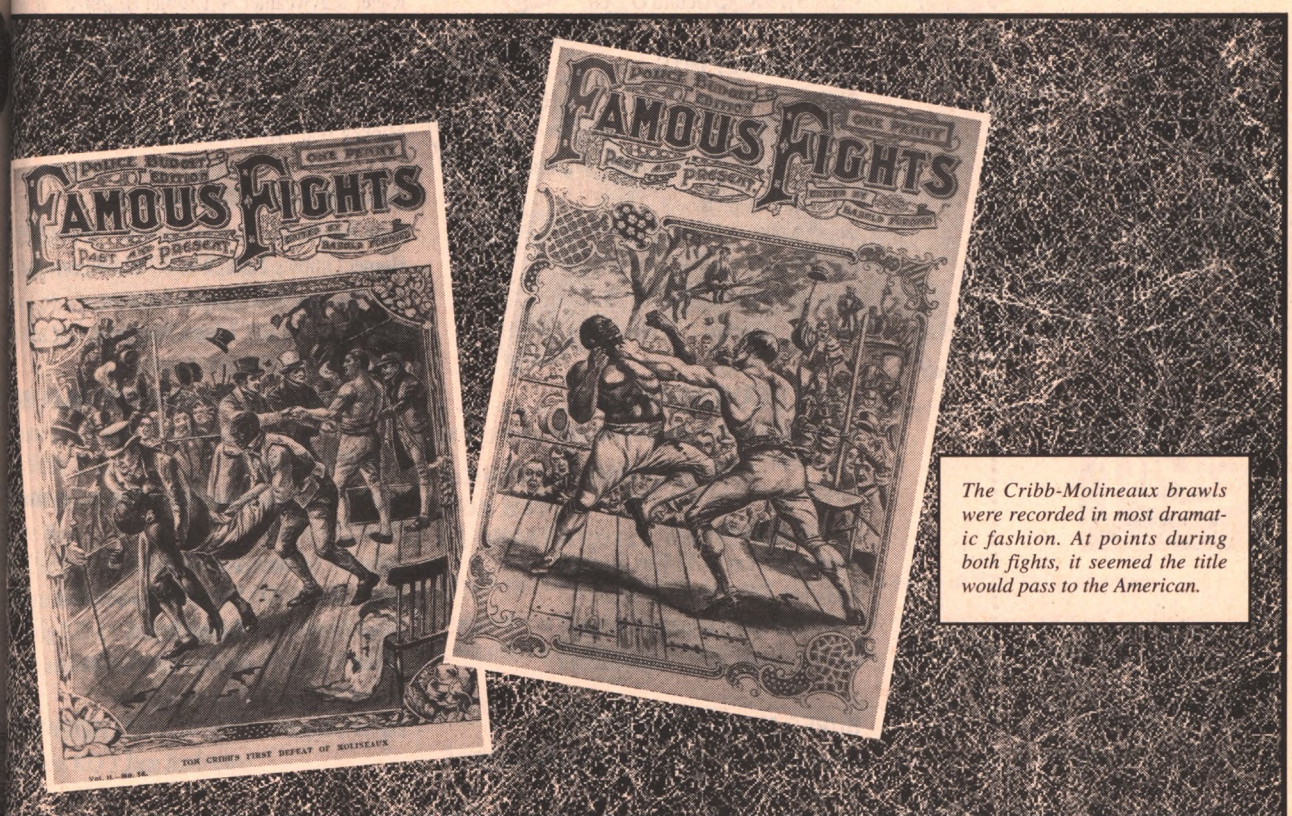
Though not as fit as he should have been, Cribb was the picture of confidence. Molineaux, too, looked composed. This was a great chance to finally leave behind the grim memories of life on the Virginia plantation. He had taken the name of his white master, Algernon Molineaux, a well-known aristocrat, landlord, and playboy with a special fondness for prize fighting. When Molineaux beat the pride of a rival planter in the ring, his master fulfilled his promise to give him $500 and his freedom.

Molineaux lost no time in showing the English their hero had a real challenge on his hands. Although Cribb scored the first knockdown, it was the American who drew first blood with what one scribe described as "a dreadful blow on the mouth that made his teeth chatter."

The pair battled fiercely for the first 20 minutes, without either gaining any real advantage. Then Molineaux began to gain the upper hand. A tremendous right sent Cribb crashing to the ground to close the 28th round. The titleholder's cornermen dragged him to his resting position in a desperate bid to revive him in time for the next round. If a fighter failed to answer the call for time after 30 seconds rest, the rules stated that his opponent would be declared the winner.

When the half-minute was up, Molineaux was on his feet at the "scratch," a line drawn in the center of the ring, but Cribb still sagged forward from his sitting position on his cornerman's knee. Three times the umpire called time. When there was no response from the champion, the American was clearly entitled to victory. But it

(Continued on page 63)



The Cribb-Molineaux brawls were recorded in most dramatic fashion. At points during both fights, it seemed the title would pass to the American.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Larry Donald W 10 Dan Murphy
Tommy Morrison D 10 Ross Puritty
Ray Mercer D 10 Marion Wilson
Henry Akinwande KO 7 Mario Schiesser
Frans Botha KO 6 Phil Scott
Tony Tucker KO 2 Cecil Coffee
Alexandre Zolkin KO 7 Carl Williams
Bruce Seldon KO 3 Tui Toia
Jeremy Williams KO 6 Mark Wills
Alex Stewart KO 6 Derrick Roddy
Danell Nicholson W 12 John Ruiz
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Exum Speight
Dan Dancuta KO 1 Larry Davis
Dan Dancuta W 8 Jerry Jones
Craig Payne KO 6 Samson Po'uha
Boris Powell W 10 Kimmuel Odum
Sherman Griffin KO 2 Jaime Munguia
Sherman Griffin KO 2 Jose Cruz
Peter McNeeley KO 3 J.B. Williamson
Chris Byrd KO 2 Gerard O'Neill

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Al Cole W 12 Nate Miller
(Retains IBF Title)
Anaclet Wamba D 12 Adolpho Washington
(Retains WBC Title)
Sergei Kobozev KO 8 Robert Daniels
David Izeqwire KO 4 Bobby Czyz
Marcelo Figueroa KO 1 Jeff McCall
Sean McClain KO 1 Kevin Wyrick

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mike McCallum W 12 Jeff Harding
(Wins WBC Title)
Virgil Hill W 12 Frank Tate
(Retains WBA Title)
Egerton Marcus W 10 Guy Stanford
Rudy Nix KO 2 Ernest Mateen
Tim Hillie W 10 Kenneth McCurdy
Garry Delaney W 12 Sergio Merani

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
James Toney KO 12 Prince Charles Williams
(Retains IBF Title)
Chris Eubank W 12 Mauricio Amaral
Randy Smith W 10 Nicky Walker

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Joe Lipsey KO 4 Kenny Lopez
Agostino Cardamone KO 7 Neville Brown
Alex Ramos W 10 Steve Langley
Wayne Ellis Tech. Win 4 Paul Busby
Jorge Vaca KO 1 Miguel Angel Suarez
Joseph Kiwanuka KO 1 Nate Woods

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Verno Phillips KO 7 Jaime Llanes
Javier Castillejo KO 8 Ludovic Proto
Larry Barnes KO 5 Greg Cadiz
Paul Vaden W 12 Jason Papillion
Lonnie Beasley W 10 Fritz Bruney
Bronco McKart KO 6 Alain Bonnamie
Darren Morris KO 6 Stephane Ouellet
Manning Galloway KO 7 Tim Payton
Leo Young W 10 Spike Cheney
Alfred Ankamah KO 2 Luis Tyson Vasquez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Rivera KO 1 Carlos Cartagena
Oba Carr KO 8 Eduardo Jacques
Derrell Coley KO 11 Terrence Alli
Anthony Stephens W 12 Harold Brazier
David Gonzalez KO 9 Wangila Napunyi
Roger Mayweather W 12 John Bizzarro
Roger Turner KO 2 Richard Mincy
Jung Oh Park D 12 Bong Kwan Park
Cassius Clay Horne W 8 Buck Smith
Mickey Ward KO 5 Luis Castillo

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Zack Padilla KO 10 Juan LaPorte
Homer Gibbins Tech. Win 7 Todd Foster
Ray Oliveira W 10 Aldrich Johnson
Pedro Sanchez KO 7 Jesus Mayorga
Hugo Pineda KO 6 Jose Escobar
Corey Johnson KO 10 Francisco Cuesta

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 6 Kenny Baysmore
(Non-Title Bout)
Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Jorge Paez
Shane Mosley KO 5 Narciso Valenzuela
Shane Mosley KO 8 John Bryant
Fabian Tejeda W 10 Mauricio Aceves
Lamar Murphy KO 2 Lalo Montes
David Sample D 8 John Bryant

OR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Hugo Paz W 12 Fabian Bazan
Hugo Paz W 10 Sergio Martinez
Liberatore W 10 Harold Warren
ayweather KO 8 Gabriel Castro
Soo Choi KO 9 Roger Borreros

THERWEIGHTS

lo Soto W 12 Pedro Villegas
Lizarraga W 12 Cedric Mingo
Santos W 10 Steve Young
Nucamendi KO 5 Rocky Valencia
Leija KO 8 Frankie Avelar
gton Francis KO 10 Vittorio Salvatore
hi Harada KO 3 Jerry Villacorta

OR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Salud KO 10 Juan Valencia
Croft W 10 Richard Duran
Zaragoza KO 5 Wilfredo Urbina
Kasai KO 7 Francisco Chavez
Jimenez W 12 Cristobal Pascual
Vasquez KO 2 Jesus Chavez

TAMWEIGHTS

ng Chuwatana KO 1 John Michael
on
WBA Title)
o Tatsuyoshi KO 3 Josefino Suarez
ey W 12 Rafael Del Valle
do Salazar W 12 Arturo Estrada
Docherty W 8 Conn McMullen

OR BANTAMWEIGHTS

y Tapia KO 2 Oscar Aguilar

WEIGHTS

l Martinez W 10 Isaias Zamudio
or Cob Castro KO 2 Rigoberto Contreras
i Ioka KO 4 Trifon Torralba

OR FLYWEIGHTS

Gamez D 12 Kaaj Chartbandit
os *WBA Title)*
ita Gonzalez KO 3 Armando Diaz
-Title Bout)
el Carbajal W 12 Josue Camacho
Griffin KO 3 Silverio Porras
Chong KO 11 Rafael Orozco
Espanola KO 9 Jack Russell

AWWEIGHTS

Sanchez KO 3 Jose Rodriguez

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FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Instead of being considered the second-best fighter in the world, ranked behind only Pernell Whitaker, perhaps IBF super middleweight champion Toney should be upgraded to 1A. While a clearly bored Whitaker waits for adequate competition at welterweight (outside of Buddy McGirt, he's not likely to find any), Toney continues his march toward a second Fighter of the Year award. In July, Toney successfully defended against former light heavyweight champion Prince Charles Williams *(see page 40)*, scoring a last-round kayo with an inspired right hand. And in November, he's scheduled to face unbeaten IBF middleweight titlist Roy Jones in arguably the most attractive fight of the year.

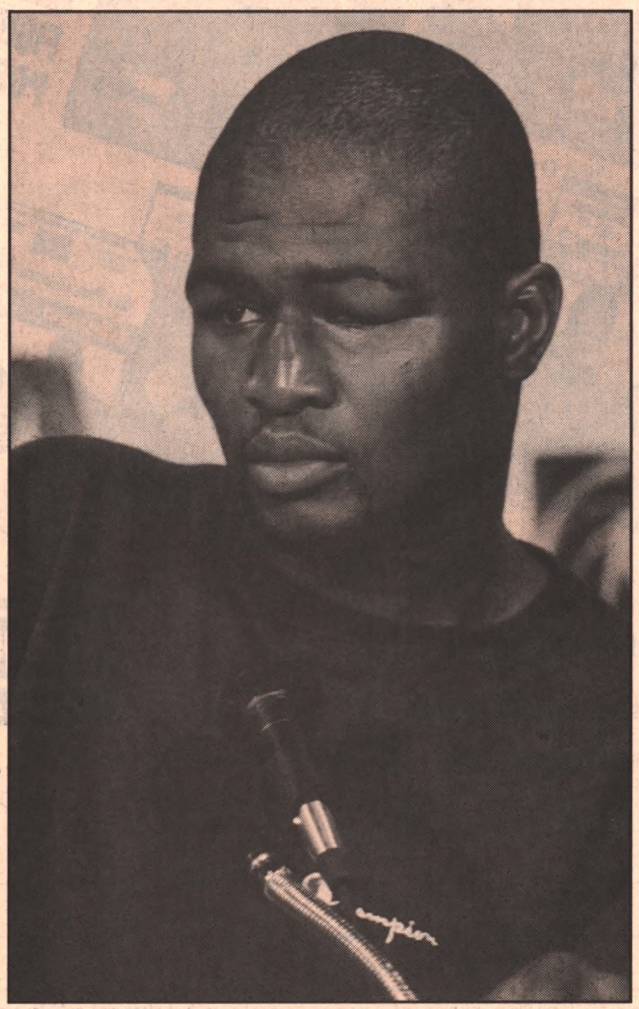


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Toney's competition keeps getting better. It's not coincidental that he keeps improving, too. Now he's challenging heavyweights. Coming from almost anyone else, we'd quickly dismiss such talk as hype and bravado. But there's a bit of Stanley Ketchel in Toney, and a touch of Mickey Walker, too.

Let's rank him 1A and moving up.

• • • •

James Toney

orung Chuwatana KO 1 n Michael Johnson

Uttaradit, Thailand: Thai southpaw Chuwatana (aka MP Petroleum), won the WBA bantamweight title by disputed TKO over Johnson, San Antonio, Texas. It was Johnson's first defense of the crown he from Junior Jones in April.

Chuwatana didn't have to work for long

t was a strange way to win a title. After the first round, which watana controlled with fast three-punch combinations, the Thai ringside sician, a Dr. Boonkerd, advised Panamanian referee Carlos Berrocal that son, who had suffered a cut over his right eye, could not continue. ocal then consulted with WBA supervisor Manuel Landero, and when ruled the cut had been opened by a punch, Chuwatana was declared the ner, much to the surprise of Johnson's corner.

"They missed the butt that caused the cut," promoter Bob Goodman, represented Johnson, told THE RING. "A technical draw should have declared." Goodman filed a protest.

The 26-year-old Chuwatana, who had been rated first, is 52-4-1 (30). nson, 26, dropped to 18-5 (14).

The judges were Guy Jutras (Canada), Madardo Villalobos (Panama), Fernando Viso (Venezuela).

Thailand now boasts of five world champions, including Chuwatana, eights San Sow Ploenchit and Phichit Sithbangprachan, and straw- ghts Chana Porpaoin and Ratanapol Vorapin.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(7-16-94)

Joe Koizumi

o Gamez D 12 Kaaj Chartbandit

Bangkok, Thailand: WBA junior flyweight champion Gamez, 108, minated the first half of the bout, came off the canvas in round seven, and t the title via split draw with unheralded Thai Chartbandit (a.k.a. Hadao Gym) at Rajadamnern Stadium. It was Gamez' second defense.

Over the first six rounds, Chartbandit, 22-9-1 (5), utilized clever work to avoid exchanges with the hard-punching Venezuelan champion. a result, Gamez, 26-3-1 (19), who constantly applied pressure, jumped to a commanding lead. But a well-timed left hook late in the seventh pped the 31-year-old champion. The bell prevented Chartbandit from ing further punishment, and, oddly, in the eighth he returned to his ious stick-and-move strategy.

The 27-year-old challenger landed with occasional counters in the last third of the fight and rallied against the fading champion in round 12. It seemed Gamez' aggressiveness had been enough to ensure victory, but Cesar Ramos (Puerto Rico) scored 114-114, Hector Hernandez (Mexico) 115-114 for Gamez, and Dong Ahn Park (South Korea) 115-114 for Chartbandit. THE RING had Gamez in front by 115-112. The referee was Silvestre Avainza (Philippines).

Both camps agreed on a rematch in Thailand in October.

Promoter: Niwat Laosuwanwat

(6-27-94)

Joe Koizumi

Virgil Hill W 12 Frank Tate

Bismarck, North Dakota: Just as he had done nearly two years before, WBA light heavyweight champion Hill dominated Tate frame by frame with a classic display of speed, skills, and conditioning, and outpointed his 1984 Olympic teammate by unanimous decision before a crowd of 4,700 at the Bismarck Civic Center. It was the sixth defense of Hill's second reign.

Since losing to Hill in a bout for the vacant title in September 1992, Tate, 174¾, Houston, had won four straight fights and reestablished himself as the top-rated contender of both the WBA and WBC. This was the first start in 1994 for both fighters.

The challenger knew he had to fight more aggressively this time, and his strategy was apparent early in the first round: Connect with counter rights. One such punch landed flush in the opening stanza, but Hill, 174¾, Bismarck, nonetheless took the round with jabs and superior footwork. The pace quickened in the second, during which Hill, a 13-5 favorite, backed Tate into a corner with his least-used weapon, a straight right.

Boxing with his mouth open, Tate landed two big rights in the third. Both fighters were cautious in the fourth and fifth, with the 29-year-old Tate backing up and seeking room for one perfect counter. The night's best action was saved for the sixth, which Tate was clearly winning until Hill, 30, exploded with a right hand and a followup flurry in the last 40 seconds. Tate, 34-4 (20), seemed ready to fall, but Hill, 39-1 (20), couldn't finish him.

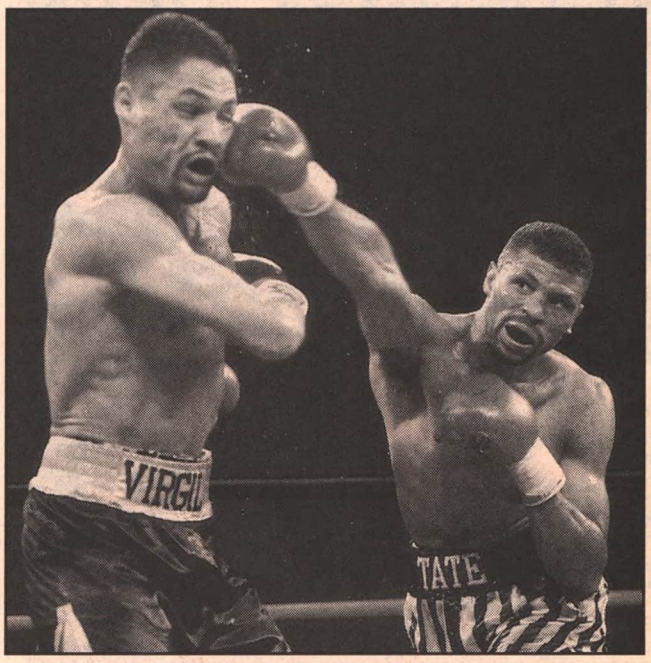


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Tate couldn't land enough of these rights

Hill reestablished command late in the eighth, scoring with jabs and hooks and improvising with a modified Ali shuffle. Tate's swollen left eye began to close, providing a target. Hill spent the last third of the bout mixing his attack to the head and body. As is his wont, he finished the 12th with a surge of energy, puncuating another masterful performance.

"I did what it took to win the fight," said Hill. "I was inside of Frank all night."

"Virgil won the thing, but my head is up," said Tate.

Hubert Earle (Canada) scored 119-108, Luis Rivera (USA) 119-107, and Julio Roldan (Venezuela) 118-110. The referee was Bernie Soto.

With Mike McCallum snatching the WBC title on the same card, Don King said he'd try to match "The Bodysnatcher" with Hill in a unification bout in September. Stay tuned.

(7-23-94)

Doug Nassif

Al Cole W 12 Nate Miller

Bismarck, North Dakota: Fighting on the Hill-Tate, McCallum-Harding undercard, IBF cruiserweight champion Cole repeated his May 1991 victory over Miller, scoring a unanimous decision. It was his fourth defense.

Cole, 190, Spring Valley, New York, can't seem to decide what kind of fighter he wants to be. Just when the suits at Triple Threat became excited—Cole's previous defense, a fifth-round stoppage of Vincent Boulware last November, was full of action—the 6'4" champion reverted to a style that had the effect of Valium. Not that "Mister" Miller, 190, Philadelphia, provided anything in the way of pugilistic amphetamines. Ranked first by the IBF, Miller underwhelmed the fans with a sleepwalk that left ringsiders wondering why he didn't open up full-force at least once. After all, title fight opportunities don't materialize every day.

The night's loudest ovation came when referee Denny Nelson (USA) tripped on Cole's foot in round 10 and kissed the canvas. And the biggest cheer came when ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. introduced "the 12th and final round."

If it was Miller's goal to move inside and nullify Cole's reach, he was successful. But once at close range, the challenger didn't punch often enough. There was minimal action until Cole landed with some heavy artillery in the final seconds of the eighth. Both fighters connected with power shots in the ninth, which was the best round of the bout. But neither appeared hurt.

"It took me some time to get going," Cole explained. "I wasn't given any time to warm up. Still, I could have done better. I'm not pleased with my performance."

Miller's corner demanded he pick up the pace before the start of the 11th, but the Philadelphian returned to his low-gear, safety-first approach. As a result, the decision was hardly a surprise, with Paul Gibbs scoring 115-113, and Bill Graham and Dario Chiarini 117-111. All three judges are from the USA.

"I thought he would come out much stronger, but he didn't," said Cole. "He's usually much more aggressive."

This was Cole's first fight under the promotional banner of Don King.

(7-23-94)

Doug Nassif

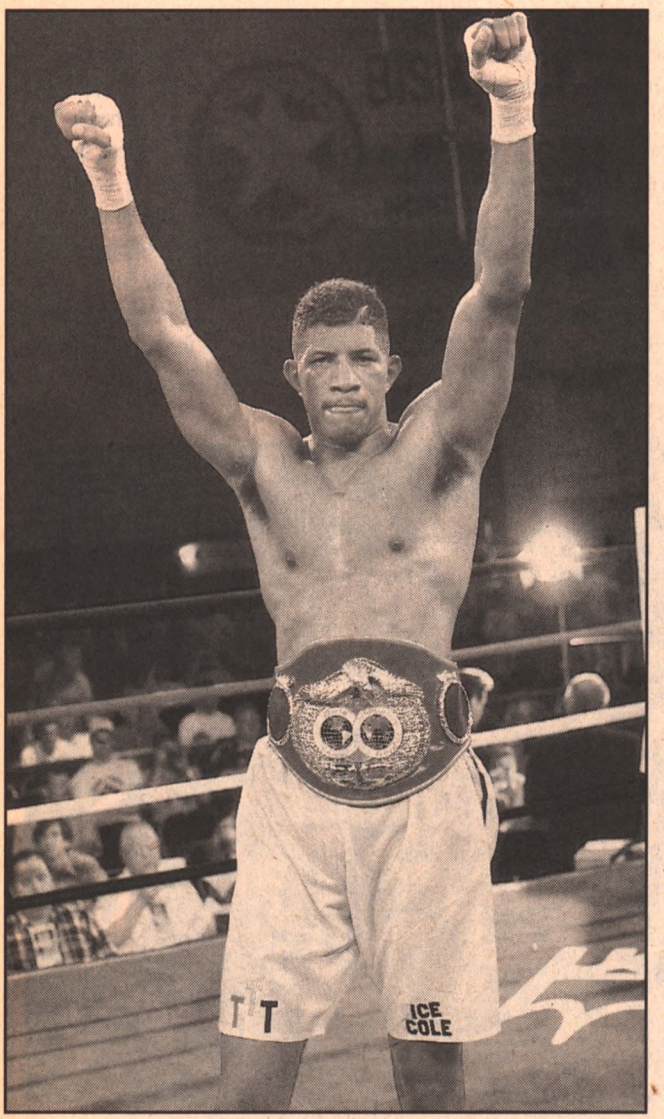


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Cole kept the belt for the fourth time

Anaclet Wamba D 12 Adolpho Washington

Monte Carlo: WBC cruiserweight champion Wamba's title fights are rarely simple affairs, and this, his sixth defense, was no exception. Fighting before a crowd of 700 at the Monaco Sporting Club, the 34-year-old Frenchman kept the crown by disputed majority draw.

Wamba, 189½, St. Brieuc, France, via Luranga, Congo, fought just hard enough to keep the crown. The much shorter Washington, 189¾, Lexington, Kentucky, applied pressure from the start, and toward the end of round one, an accidental clash of heads left him with a cut on his forehead. Wamba came off the ropes with a left hook in the second, but Washington took the third and fourth, as the champion elected to cover up.

In the middle rounds, Wamba, 43-2-1 (21), surprisingly came forward for stretches, while Washington, 23-2-2 (14), decelerated. Washington's eye began to swell, and while he punched on occasion down the stretch, his work was sloppy. Wamba failed to take advantage, winning the 11th, but allowing the challenger to outhustle him in the 12th.

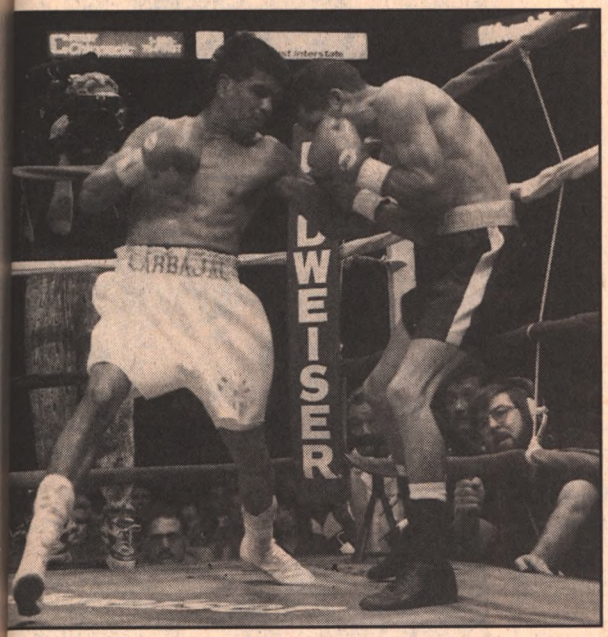
While Washington's manager, Malcolm Garrett, disputed the decision and asked for an immediate rematch, the verdict could have gone either way. Rolando Barrovecchio (Italy) scored 116-114 for Wamba, while Larry O'Connell (England) and Daniel Van de Wiele (Belgium) saw it 116-116 and 115-115, respectively. The referee was Mickey Vann (England).

Wamba's next defense will come against either Thomas Hearns or mandatory challenger Norbert Ekassi.

(7-14-94)

hael Carbajal W 12 Josue Camacho

Phoenix, Arizona: In February, Carbajal lost the WBC and IBF junior ight titles to arch-rival Chiquita Gonzalez. To his credit, the former pion isn't moping. In his second comeback bout, "Manitos De Piedra" d Camacho, launched a thudding body attack, and scored a unanimous ion before a respectable hometown crowd of 5,520—the bout was able on local cable-TV—at America West Arena.



Carbajal unmercifully pounded Camacho's body

It was a fast-paced contest most of the way, with Camacho, 106½, ynabo, Puerto Rico, bouncing away from danger and using his reach to through with right-hand counters. Carbajal, 108, Phoenix, clipped nacho with several clean shots, especially to the body, but they had no ible effect. Camacho's safety-first tactics quieted the crowd early, and biggest roar came when referee Toby Gibson (USA) almost went down, catapulted into the ropes in an effort to avoid a Camacho flurry.

Carbajal, 32-1 (19), kept up the pressure in every round. In the fifth, nacho, 15-3 (6), lost a point for holding, and in the ninth, Carbajal was alized for hitting low. Carbajal hurt Camacho with a right in the enth, but never came close to putting him away.

Strangely, Camacho, 25, stayed away in the final frame, as if protecting ad. In fact, he was far behind, with Roy Francis (England) scoring 119-, Al Tremari (USA) 119-108, and John Rupert (USA) 118-108. THE G saw it much closer, at 117-113.

"He makes good fighters like myself look bad," the 26-year-old bajal said of Camacho. "I think I fought a good fight considering how h he ran."

Carbajal's biggest bomb landed a couple of days later, when it was ounced he had left long-time promoter Bob Arum (Top Rank) to sign Don King. The deal is said to involve $4.5-million for five fights over years.

For the Camacho fight, which was televised by ESPN, Carbajal earned ,000.

Promoter: Top Rank

(7-15-94)

Phil Woolever

Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 Jorge Paez

Las Vegas, Nevada: Disturbed by first-round knockdowns suffered in two of his last three fights, as well as the criticism they brought, De La Hoya exploded to beat Paez before a crowd of 8,116 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. The lightweight bout, televised by HBO, was the co-feature on the card headlined by James Toney-Prince Charles Williams.

De La Hoya, 135, East Los Angeles, was determined not to be placed in jeopardy by the unpredictable maneuvers of former featherweight champion Paez, 134½, Mexicali, Mexico. His fight plan, he said, was to "get him out of there as quick as possible."

Boxing in red, white, and green trunks that almost reached the floor, Paez, 28, opened by dipping and ducking and working out of a crouch. However, at 5'6", he had difficulty reaching the 5'11" De La Hoya, and he landed only one left hook of consequence. Keeping his distance, the 21-year-old De La Hoya waited until the last seconds of the round before opening up; a six-punch volley caught Paez, 53-7-4 (35), along the ropes.

Early in the second, De La Hoya, 14-0 (13), saw the opening he was waiting for. A left uppercut stunned Paez, and a left hook further weakened him. Then the 1992 Olympic gold medalist finished with the most beautiful punch he's thrown as a pro, a left uppercut/hook that found the point of Paez' chin. The Mexican pitched forward, landing face-down, then rolled over on his back, holding his head with his gloves. Referee Richard Steele (USA) counted out the part-time circus clown at the 39-second mark.

De La Hoya described his big left-hand punches as "45-degree bombs, because that's the angle I delivered them. I figured as soon as I caught him with one of my best shots he would go, and he did."

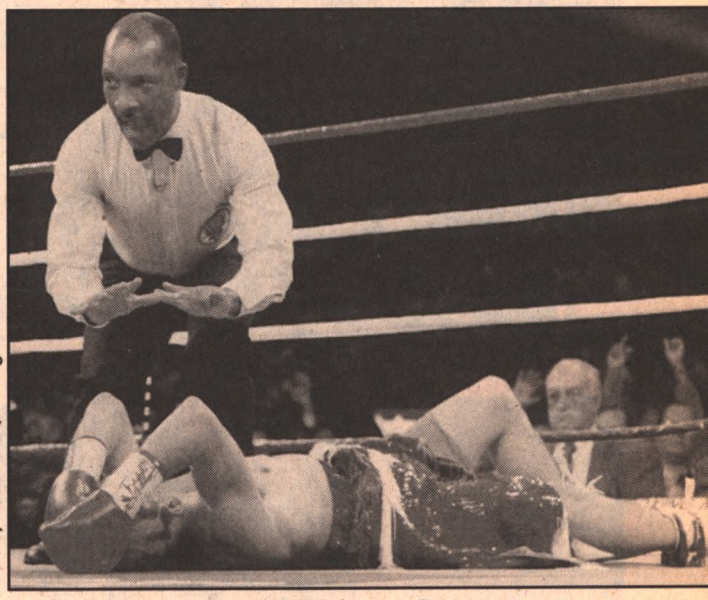


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

An early ending: Steele counts Paez out

"I don't remember the second round at all," said Paez. "I wanted to fight, but De La Hoya was too strong and hits too hard. I've never been hit that hard by any punch before."

The judges were John Stewart, Jerry Roth, and Chuck Giampa, all from the USA.

De La Hoya earned $800,000 and Paez $175,000.

Promoter: Top Rank

(7-29-94)

Jack Welsh ■

Camera Clicks

Earlier this year, Muhammad Ali was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law by Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts. Said Ali, "I've been called the king, the greatest, and the champion. Now they're going to have to call me the doctor!"

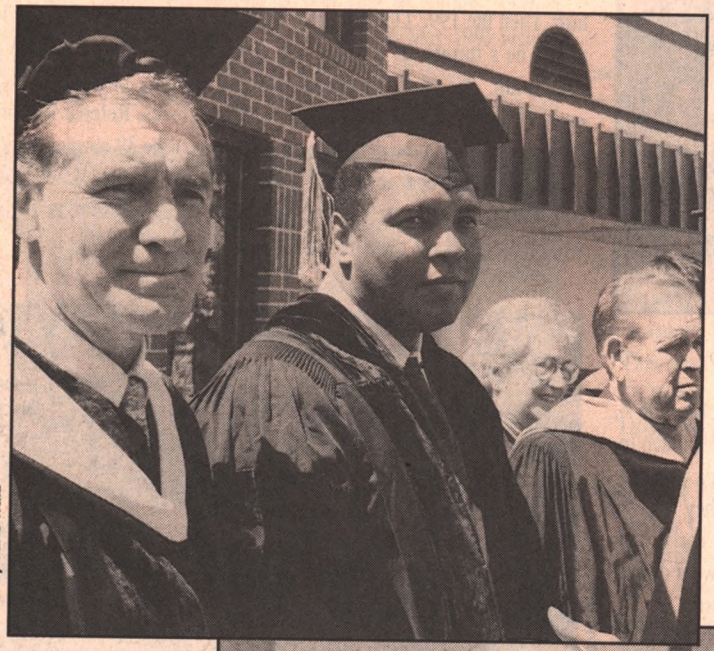
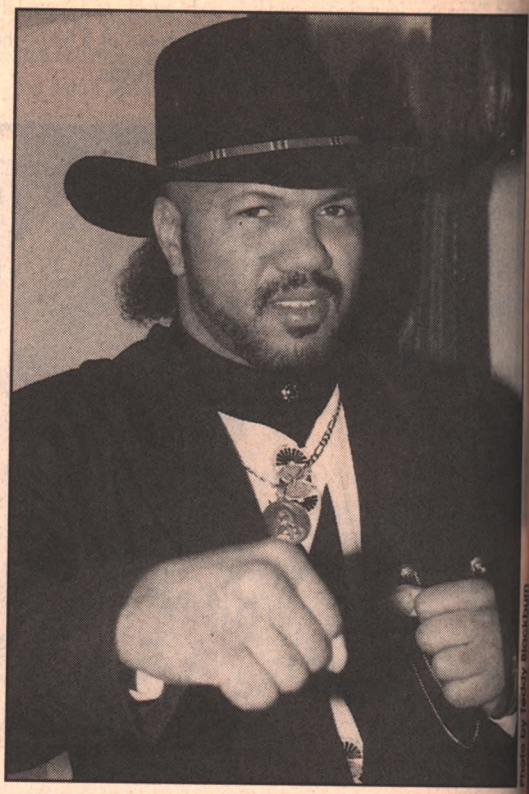
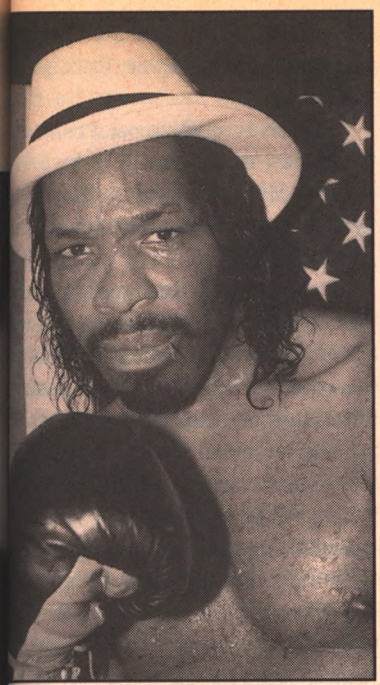


Photo by Jake Katz



Still talking tough is Cuban heavyweight Jorge Luis Gonzalez. The undefeated former amateur star, who is promoted by the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, wants a fight with Riddick Bowe.

Big George Has A Big Heart: Still a fan favorite, George Foreman offers inspiration to Balthazar Torres, a patient at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

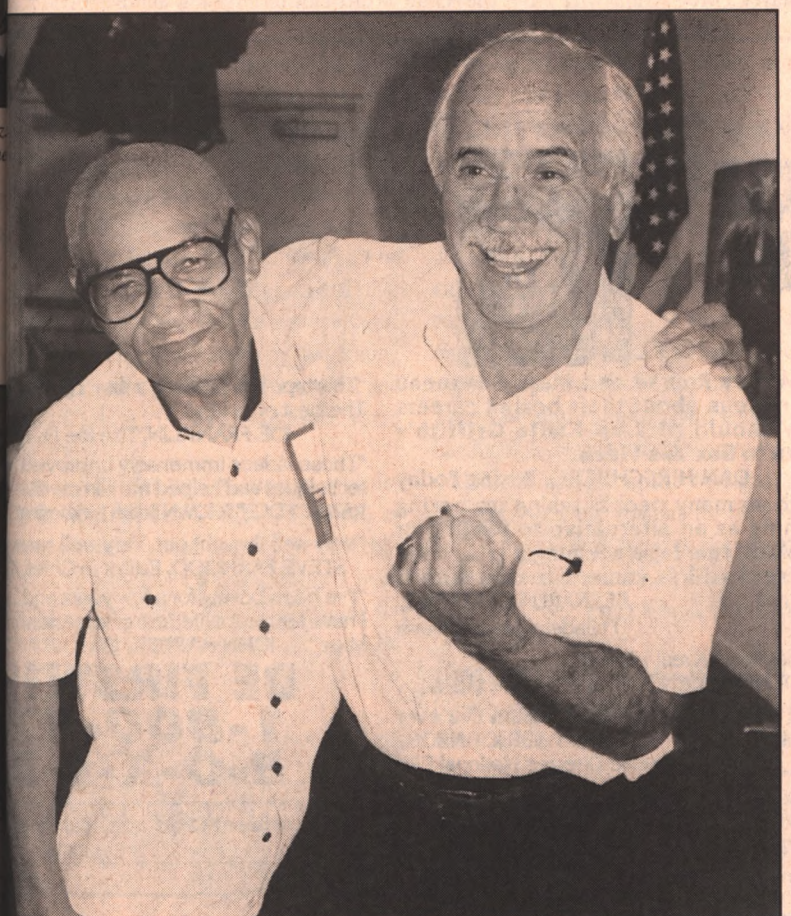


ime heavyweight contender Mitch Green
k in action. Now 37, "Blood" isn't call-
r a rematch with Mike Tyson, but he's
ough enough to last the distance with
ects like Melvin Foster.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Promoter Butch Lewis can only hope the brothers Spinks, Michael and Leon, are playing around during the International Boxing Hall of Fame induction weekend in Canastota, New York.

Honored this summer in New York City were trainer Teddy Atlas, who posed with Stephanie Arcel (above), and boxing judge Harold Lederman, who shared the stage with IBF President Bob Lee (below).



who was spotted at a meeting of Veteran Boxers Association Ring 31 in Hollywood,
da: Beau Jack and Bobby Dykes. Both looked fighting trim.

Photos by Teddy Blackburn

McCallum

(Continued from page 37)

he began to snap back Harding's head with jabs and uppercuts. The challenger's dominance suggested the media's been wrong about his age all along. Thirty-seven? How about 27? Or 22?

"There isn't much difference between Mike today and Mike five or 10 years ago," said Futch. "He's never taken a lot of punishment. The fighters in the '30s and '40s, up through the late-'60s, had lots of fights and had to know the art of not getting hit too much or they never would've lasted. Mike was solid from the start, but he keeps working on his technique."

What was surprising about the second half of the fight was that despite McCallum's relentless up-and-down attack, Harding, 23-2 (17), never slowed his forward progress, nor did he suffer any cuts. The champion was still walking into punches in the ninth. One round later, McCallum, 47-2-1 (35), rested a bit, but Harding failed to accelerate. The last two rounds were close, with McCallum punching and moving less and Harding forcing him to clinch. Perhaps it was the Australian's non-stop aggressiveness that prompted Harding to say, "I thought I did enough to win." In fact, he had done enough to last.

"I heard him grunt a couple of times when I hit him to the body," McCallum said of his opponent. "In the 11th, he said, 'Oooooh,' but he didn't let me get through often. In the late rounds my hands were hurting and I got tired of hitting him. But when he hit me, I'd try and come back right away with four, five shots."

The decision was unanimous, but the scoring was far closer than it should have been. Rudy Ortega had it 116-114, Tom Kaczmarek 116-113, and Terry Smith 117-113. (All three judges are from the USA.) THE RING scored for McCallum by 119-109.

"I thought it was a nine- 10-point fight," said McCallum. "When I heard the first score, I thought to myself, *It's that close? And if it's that close, maybe they'll give it to him.*"

Should he face Hill in a unification battle in Bismarck, McCallum will have the same concern. With the newly crowned champion having won his third title, that fight seems a logical step.

"There's been talk about a unification with Hill, and I'm very much in love with that fight," McCallum said. "I'd fight him anywhere, but I'd prefer not fighting him there [in Bismarck]."

Futch said he'd like to see McCallum "fight two or three more times, then try something else." Given that kind of limitation, a showdown with Hill is the only attractive fight that could be made. It remains to be seen whether promoter Don King can secure the dollars he'll need to satisfy both camps; the money will have to come from Showtime or the network's pay-per-view arm, Showtime Event Television. Chwasky wants the fight as soon as possible and quotes a purse "in the $1-million range" as a prerequisite for his fighter. As we went to press, he said he hadn't yet discussed the situation with King.

Forget the fact that McCallum-Hill makes all the sense in the world, and that the division is in desperate need of a marketable fight. It's not difficult to envision another of McCallum's

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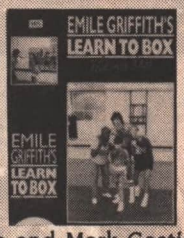

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tunities dissolving. There are only about hings that could go wrong. King, who has indicted for insurance fraud, could be tried onvicted before the fight materializes. Either BA or WBC could block the bout for a ty of selfish reasons. The fight site could me a major obstacle during negotiations. Hill decide the fight is too big a risk. Or, quite y, McCallum could be jinxed.

is December 1991 middleweight show- with Toney aside, the closest McCallum ome to a superfight was in 1984, when he mandatory challenger for Duran's WBA or middleweight title. Steward was allum's manager and trainer at the time, the way he recalls it, "The WBA wouldn't the fight, even though McCallum was er one. We had dinner with WBA officials erto Rico, and they said, 'Duran has only or two fights left, and we're not gonna let fight McCallum. He's gonna fight either ns or Hagler for the [big] money.' I told 'Let Duran fight Hearns [whom Steward managed], but only if Duran will give up title so McCallum can fight for it. We ded and got them to strip Duran before he ht Hearns."

Steward is no longer associated with Callum, but he said The Bodysnatcher ld have beaten Duran ("too big, too rt"). He also believes McCallum would edged Leonard. He wouldn't, however, go r as to pick McCallum against Hearns.

Hopefully, in five or 10 years we won't be g the experts who would've won a fight een McCallum and Hill. In a weird twist, ns helped cement his status by outpointing previously unbeaten Hill in June 1991, and McCallum is awaiting the same rtunity.

What's left after you've become a triple- n champion? For a fighter as proud as Callum, there remains a void. Whether tness is enough is a question he's been pling with for years. Instead of wishing for last big fight, maybe he should settle for e of mind. ■

Toney

(Continued from page 42)

ager Jackie Kallen, who had gone into her ket to subsidize Toney's career when he an unknown. In the years since, Kallen has kept her fighter busy. With so active a career, it didn't take long for Toney to dispel the widespread belief that his victory over Nunn was a fluke.

Three years later, Toney is regarded as a guy with a knack for winning, a tough-minded, resourceful fighter with a knee-jerk surliness toward any man with the temerity to step up and fight him.

Williams, 32, was the latest challenger to raise Toney's hackles. Prince Charles came to the fight with credentials: He was IBF light heavyweight champion from 1987 to 1993, a period that saw him successfully defend the title eight times. His reign ended last year, when he lost a 12-round decision to German Henry Maske. The loss came after his being inactive for 17 months because of a series of fractures to his left hand.

When he was announced as Toney's opponent, many boxing men figured Williams' best years were behind him. But Williams did not act like a fighter merely looking to make a last payday. "The guys [Toney] fought are good fighters but not in my caliber," he said. "I fought some of the warriors. I fought great fighters and beat some of the best."

In his brusque fashion, Toney issued this fighting-mad rejoinder to Williams' face at the final news conference: "I'm going to kick your ass. All the talking is done. You started it, I'm going to finish it."

But when fight night arrived, Toney was to discover that Williams was no pushover. The challenger came into the ring with a well-conceived battle plan. The strategy was based on the premise that if Williams gave Toney room to operate, the champion's hand speed would be more than Prince Charles could handle. The solution was to shorten the distance and force the champion to fight at close quarters. Not close quarters for fitful intervals, but for the full three minutes of every round. At that enforced proximity, Williams attempted to outwork Toney, using a brisk attack calculated to drain the champion.

For a while, the strategy worked. At the start of each round, Williams, 167½, Mansfield, Ohio, would rush across the ring to get in Toney's face and then would begin punching—blows foreshortened because of the tight quarters from which the fighters were operating. When Toney, 168, Ann Arbor, Michigan, attempted to step back and get punching room, Williams quickly moved forward to close the breach. At times, his corner would shout, "Walk him, walk him," and

(Continued on page 56)

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Toney

(Continued from page 55)

Williams would move forward, bumping Toney backward and into the ropes, from where the champion seemed content—maybe too content—to fight.

When Toney did punch, his blows tended to have more impact than Williams'. But through the early rounds he couldn't match Williams' volume-punching.

The effect of the close-quarter combat was of two men wrestling in a phone booth. It was grueling and repetitive, but not awfully photogenic. For the MGM Grand crowd, it lacked the crisp lines of action that fans pay to see. So they booed. And then booed some more.

But Williams did not relent in the full-court pressure he applied. If Williams' tactics were not crowd-pleasing, they were an operative success. After five rounds, the challenger was ahead on the cards of all three judges.

On the few occasions when Toney did manage to get an arm's length from Williams, however, his superior quickness was apparent. His jab rifled past Williams' defenses, and the right hand scored consistently, too. It was obvious that if Williams lapsed and allowed Toney maneuvering room, he would be in trouble.

As the fight wore on, Williams tried but could not maintain the offensive pressure he'd brought to the early rounds. At the start of rounds, Williams literally ran to center ring to crowd the champion. But where the Prince was able to body him into the ropes and punch without letup before, now Toney was able to slip away and work from a comfortable distance.

Even when referee Joe Cortez (USA) ordered a point deducted when the champion hit Williams, 36-6-2 (27), after the bell ending the eighth round, the champion was hardly deterred. By then he was ahead on two of the three cards. He broadened his lead by unanimously winning rounds nine through 11. And then he took the verdict out of the judges' hands in the 12th and final round when he hit Williams with a clubbing right to the side of the head. The challenger fell backward at an awkward angle, then rolled onto his knees. Cortez decided Williams had had enough and waved an end to the fight at 2:45.

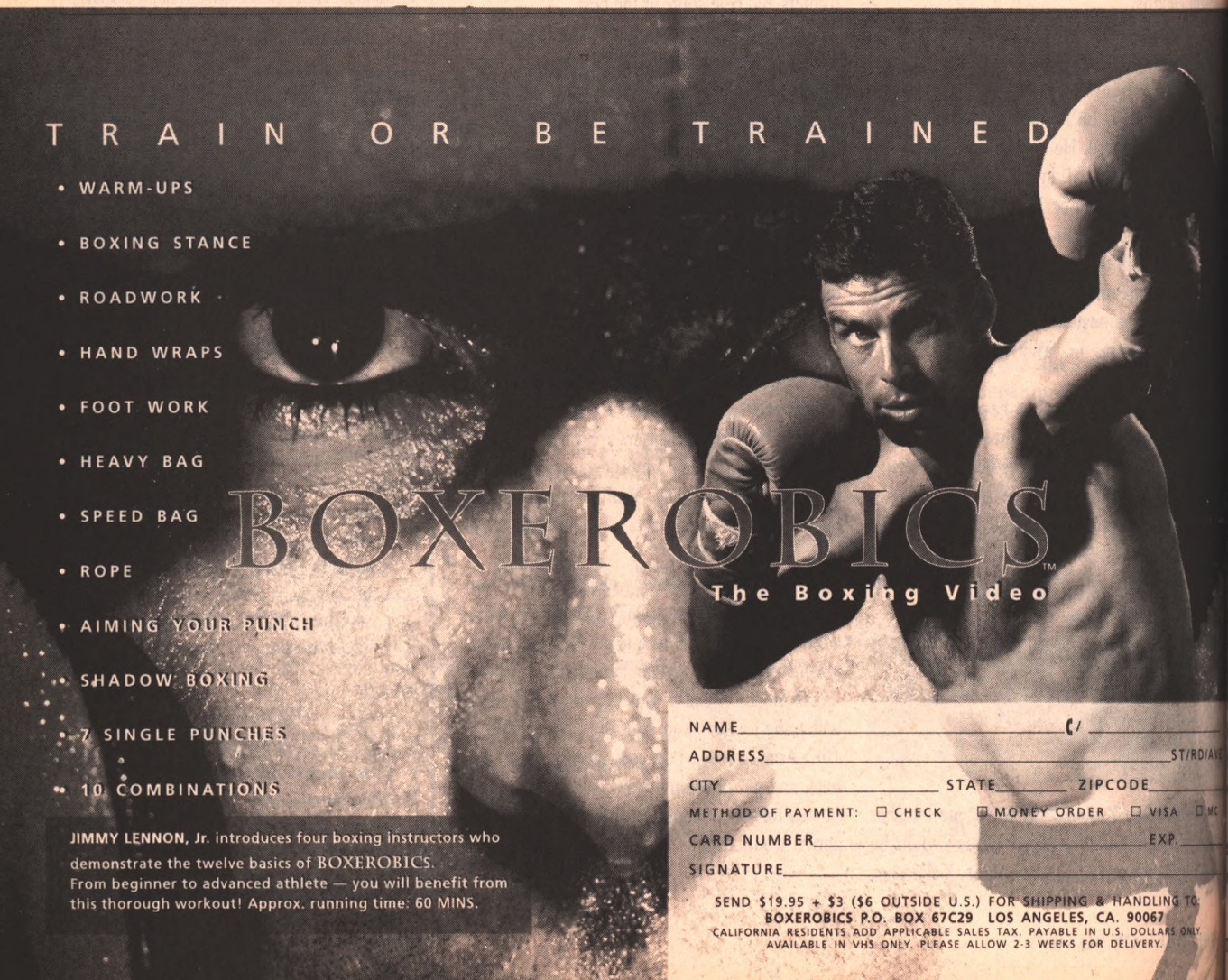
The judges were Art Lurie, Mike Glienna, and Stuart Winston, all from the USA.

"I knew he'd try to hold," said Toney, who claimed to have been weakened by a prefight touch of the flu. "I also knew I'd overwhelm him eventually. I can adapt to any style. He was weakened by the ninth round."

As Toney watched a replay of the knockout on a TV monitor immediately after the bout, he said, "Look at that. It's London Bridge come falling down."

Ahead for Toney is a fight that is likely to be a career-defining match. At the postfight press conference following the victory over Williams, the champion's promoter, Bob Arum, announced a November 18 match between Toney, 44-0-2 (29), and undefeated IBF middleweight champion Roy Jones, 26-0 (23).

Arum compared the match to the April 1987 classic, Marvelous Marvin Hagler vs. Sugar Ray Leonard, suggesting that Toney and Jones



...e best middle-division fighters around. ...rare instance, Arum's hyperbole may ...atch the reality.

...tainly Jones will be the quickest fighter ...has faced, a man who has made skilled ...s like Percy Harris and Thomas Tate ...like patsies, hitting them with impunity ...knocking them out. But Toney did not ...inclined to give the lightning-quick Jones ...He's not fit to carry my gym bag."

...sounded like a man who was beginning ...fighting-mad. Again. ■

...hil Berger is a freelance writer based in ...ork City.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

...g drinking for a while," he said. "After I ...Eddie, I called it quits for '90 and '91 ...se of the lifestyle I was living. I was ...much burnt out.

...hen I decided I wanted to come back and ...the '92 Olympics, all my friends left me, ...my true friends: my family and my wife ..., who was my girlfriend then."

...ala's brother Shawn, a former boxer who ...e years older, helped Paulie. "I've never ...nybody work as hard as he did," Shawn ...He put his mind to coming back, worked ...r two straight months, and dropped from ...unds to 118. He's one of the best fighters ...me out of Fort Worth, and I'm not just ...that because he's my brother. I used to ...e Donald Curry and Stevie Cruz [both ...r world champions from Fort Worth], and ...e's just as tough as they were. He can ...tely make it to the championship."

...ala didn't make it to the '92 Games in ...lona, but he did rekindle the interest of ...iners and managers. In 1989, he almost ...l pro under Curry and trainer Paul Reyes. ..., he turned to Reyes as his lead trainer.

...was ready to retire when Donald retired, ...en I started working with Paulie when he ...l pro," said Reyes. "I knew he had been ...ng a while back in his career. I told him if ...sn't serious, not to waste my time. But ...e proved to me he was serious. So far he's ...everything I have asked. He makes it easy ...me.

...e's got a lot of talent. Paulie can hit with ...r hand, and he doesn't have any ...nesses. The only thing I keep on him about, he has to box just a little more. His offense is great; he can bang with anybody. Sooner or later, though, he'll run into a tough opponent, and that's when his boxing skills will pay off."

Ayala has had an on-again, off-again relationship with Boxing Management Inc. of Fort Worth, with Scott Sherman his primary manager. Ayala signed with BMI in September '92, bought his way out of the contract in February '93, and rejoined the group in January.

"We should never have got apart," said Sherman. "Maybe it was for the better, though; we all get along fine now. Fort Worth has a lot of boxing smarts, and it's always been known as a fight town. But it hasn't had a whole lot professionally. The only one to sell out here was Donald Curry. Paulie will be the next one, if anyone can do it."

Ayala hasn't really been tested as a pro. He went a full six rounds with veteran Jaime Olvera in his debut and faced another veteran, Jesse Magana, in bout number two. Seven of his 10 bouts have been in his home state. He traveled to New York and won six-round decisions over Evgeni Novocelov (June '93) and unbeaten prospect George Acevedo (December '93). His most recent effort was a third-round TKO of yet another veteran, Lee Cargle, in Moore, Oklahoma. "That was a barroom brawl," said Ayala. "I dropped him in the second, but the bell rang and saved him. I put him down two more times in the third before they finally stopped it."

The only time Ayala has fought as far as eight rounds was in February, when he scored a one-sided decision over out-of-shape veteran Javier "Suzuki" Diaz in Fort Worth. "I wanted to fight, but he was more on the defensive," Ayala said.

One month later, Reyes beat Diaz in a 10-rounder. That's what propelled the Olympian onto Canizales' dance card. Ayala and his handlers didn't mind.

"I don't think Paulie's ready for it," Sherman admitted. "Honestly, I don't think Sergio's ready for it either. I think Paulie's further advanced. But we wouldn't take it yet. We don't need the money. Four or five fights from now, hell yes! But Paulie has to learn in a couple of 10-rounders, then win the NABF title or something."

Texas has turned out many world champions, including Curry, Cruz, Gene Hatcher, Curtis Cokes, George Foreman, Robert Quiroga, the Canizales brothers, and most recently Jesse James Leija and John Michael Johnson. Ayala is confident he'll soon be joining the list.

"When Cruz was champ, I sparred with him a lot," he said. "He liked me because of my hand speed. I just sparred with Johnson because he was getting ready to fight a southpaw [Daorung Chuwatana] in Thailand. I learn from these guys, and I think they've made me a better boxer. And as an amateur, I fought Cook, Reyes, Sharmba Mitchell, Richard Duran, Sean Fletcher. I learned against all of them.

"If I put myself at 100 percent, I can beat anyone. I ain't gonna lose; if I do, it'll be because of politics. I'm here to break the records. Keep an eye out for me." ■

Bruce Williams, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is a correspondent based in Austin, Texas.

Don King

(Continued from page 23)

"I wouldn't be surprised if this first indictment triggers an avalanche of charges," said rival promoter Bob Arum. "The government is armed with another big insurance case to dump on him, plus another tax case.

"Without question, King is the major cancer affecting boxing's well-being. What King has been allowed to do in the sport is an absolute calamity."

Added Bill Cayton, another outspoken critic of King: "I've been anticipating this indictment for over a year. I believe the government selected the course of action that is most likely to bring a conviction. I also believe there will be further indictments. I know many other matters are under investigation."

Even if there are no additional charges brought against King, the ones he faces are of no small concern. Charged with bilking Lloyd's of London out of $350,000 on a false insurance claim over a June 28, 1991, Chavez-Harold Brazier fight that never happened, the "Only-In-America Man" could be looking at 45 years in prison and fines totaling $2.25-million if convicted on all counts.

King's trial, which is expected to last approximately three weeks, will be heard in U.S. District Court in New York, probably in January. It could be that King is led away in handcuffs after being found guilty, or with those

same hands raised in triumph, as was the case in 1985, when he beat a federal income tax rap. After his acquittal, the members of the mostly female jury were treated, all expenses paid, to a trip to London for the King-promoted Tim Witherspoon-Frank Bruno heavyweight title fight.

"They went down the list of every known charge conceivable to man," King said at the time. "Racketeering, skimming, kickbacks, ticket-scalping, fixing fights, preordaining fights, corrupting judges, all the way down to laundering money. Everything but the Lindbergh baby. Instead of using me as the true attestation of the American dream, they threw the book at me."

Perhaps the book finally will hit King this time. If it does, what will happen to King's empire if he returns to the slammer, where he spent four years after being convicted of murder, later reduced to manslaughter, in 1967? (He was later pardoned.) Will he be able to run his multimillion-dollar company, Don King Productions, out of a jail cell? And if he can't, would the operation continue with minimal confusion under the guidance of a hand-picked successor? Or would King's fighters use his incarceration as a means to flee to other promoters? Is King's health an issue? And how does Mike Tyson, King's lead horse who is waiting to be sprung from prison, fit into the picture?

Coming up with sensible answers to those questions is like looking through a dark glass. Beyond its president, Don King Productions has no logical chain of command through which control might be passed. A goodly portion of the corporation's assets are thought to be hidden, and only King, if you'll pardon the expression, knows where all the bodies are buried.

This much is known: A conviction would remove King from the loop for however long he might find himself behind bars. While the romantic movie notion, presented in *GoodFellas*, is that King would somehow have the use of a cellular phone and fax machine in his split-level cell, no state commission could deal directly with a convicted felon while he was serving his sentence.

"If he was convicted, his license would be suspended," said Larry Hazzard, who heads the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board. "O rules stipulate, as do the rules of oth commissions, including Nevada's, that anyo in that situation would have his licen suspended.

"But we license individuals, not companie If Carl King [Don's son] or someone else Don's organization wanted to promote fights New Jersey, that would be a different situatio entirely. I probably would have to get so legal guidance on that."

Carl King, who manages several of t fighters promoted by his father, seemingly the most logical candidate to run the day-to-d operations of DKP in the event of a convictio But Carl is not, and never will be, the dynam mover and shaker that Don is, a reality th even the elder King tacitly acknowledges.

"Carl is my son, and I'm proud of him. King said. "No matter who would run thing Carl would always be there and involve because my business is his business. But I' not sure he would want to be in this forever. he is, well, Carl could make a thousan mistakes a day and he still won't go broke. I'v seen to that."

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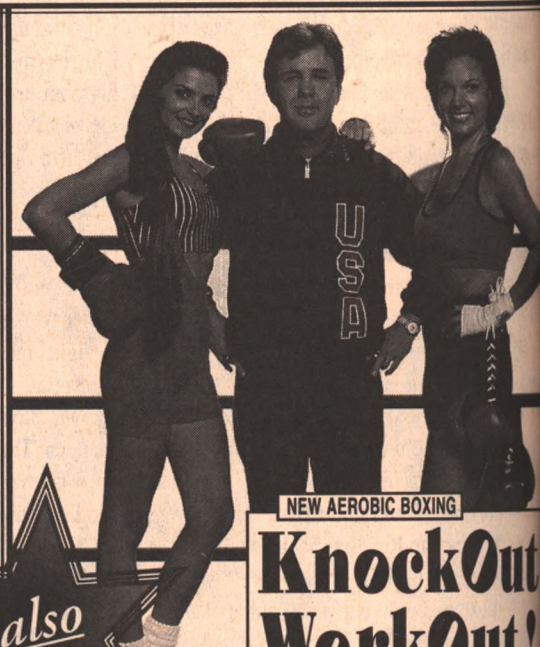

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ard. "Not exactly a ringing endorsement of Carl's of oth cial and organizational acumen.
t anyo ut if not Carl, to whom might the torch be licen d? Al Braverman, King's curmudgeon-like e-time director of boxing, might be a mpani idate if he were younger. But while e else erman is undeniably a knowledgeable fight fights, he's spent a lifetime burning more bridges situati Sherman did on his march to the sea. And et so difficult to imagine King turning over the with no reservations to either matchmaker l of on Sher or Michael Marley, the former *New* ingly *Post* boxing writer who now serves as y-to- 's publicity director.
nvicti One-time King associates who might have dynam able to handle the job, such as Butch lity t is, Rock Newman, Bobby Goodman, and es. ad Muhammad, have battled him at various f hi es. And in most cases, bitter feelings remain. thin Lewis and Muhammad, both of whom are volv k, have criticized King for portraying But self as a victim of racial persecution rever never he finds himself in trouble.
ousa "I probably know Don as well as anybody, ke. I better than most," Lewis said. "When he there's racism in this country, that there is ersecution of successful African-Americans because they're successful, yeah, there is ething to that. It's something we have to e up to in every walk of life when you're ing about people of color.
"Don King is a bright guy who deserves a of credit for what he's accomplished. On the er hand, Don makes a big point of being a k man in order to get close to black and panic boxers. Then, when he is close to m, he screws them. He always seems to tap ce on that line between ethical and unethical duct. I don't know, maybe it's just a part of nature."
Said Muhammad: "Any black leader who ies around King now is a fool."
King's main asset, other than himself, is his p stable of fighters, many of whom are ted out at news conferences to pledge their dying devotion to the man to whom they are ntractually bound. But it would surprise no e if a handful of King's headliners would use conviction of the promoter as a means to e the realm. Even Larkin, the Sundance Kid King's Butch Cassidy, would have to nsider cozying up to Arum or Dan Duva if P were stripped of its leader and a number its top attractions.
All of which brings us back to Tyson, the ly fighter whose box-office magnetism is ch that he could keep a listing ship from going under.

Larkin, who has visited Tyson in prison, insists the former and perhaps future heavyweight champion of the world will continue to align himself with King, even if the promoter replaces Tyson as a member of America's penal population.

"I saw and heard nothing that would indicate to me that Mike has any thought of changing his promotional affiliation," Larkin said.

A steadfast Tyson would enable King, who reportedly suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure, to survive, in a business sense, several years in the joint. After all, his crime would not have been against boxing, but against an insurance company. If a man can get a promoter's license with manslaughter on his rap sheet, surely he could get back in the game after having done time for turning in a phony insurance claim.

It might not be a courtroom spectacle on the scale of, say, the O.J. Simpson case, but the U.S. vs. Don King figures to be a brawl as interesting as any boxing match in recent memory.

King said he gladly welcomes the impending brawl.

"Investigation is my middle name," he said. "Every other week, every other month, here comes another one. But despite the character assassinations and villainy I'm accused of, I continue to succeed. And that makes some people crazy."

But it surprises no one. ■

Bernard Fernandez covers boxing for The Philadelphia Daily News.

Eye Injuries

(Continued from page 27)

against Kevin Howard for three months.

"Sugar Ray Leonard had the money to get the best doctors in the country to take care of his eyes," said Seales. "He was also on top. He wasn't a fighter trying to get there."

Aaron Pryor, Iran Barkley, Julian Jackson, and Simon Brown are other fighters who made it to the top either before or after retinal injuries interfered with their careers. In 1946, Wesley Mouzon, who became a top trainer, managed to challenge lightweight champion Bob Montgomery before a detached retina ended his ring days. But Johnny Persol, one of the best

(Continued on page 60)

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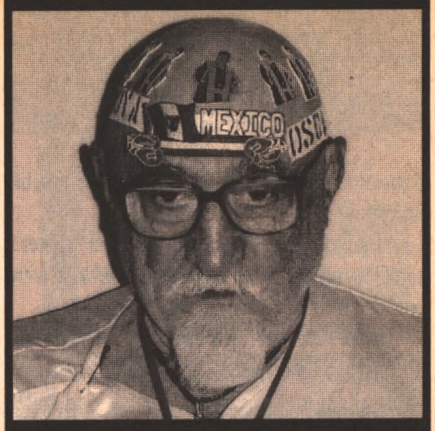

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Eye Injuries

(Continued from page 59)

light heavyweights of the '60s, never got his title shot.

"Johnny Persol was a great, great fighter," said Neumann. "The only fights he lost were because he couldn't see."

Persol, who defeated three world champions during his rise toward the top, retired at age 29 after engaging in 28 pro fights over seven years. The problems with his left eye began in 1964, when he suffered a blowout fracture of his left orbital bone in a kayo loss to Roger Rouse. The fracture went undiagnosed, and Persol continued to fight.

"After that one fight I used to get double-vision," he said. "Sometimes it stayed for a few days, sometimes it stayed for weeks, and sometimes I just fought with it."

When Angel Oquendo thumbed Persol in his left eye in the third round of a 1968 bout, he said, "It seemed like the arena kept getting darker on me." The next day he was told his career would be over unless he tried "this new laser procedure" to correct a detached retina. Persol fought twice more but said his eye was never the same. He said it was the double-vision, and not Jimmy Dupree, who defeated him in his last fight in 1969. Although he had already defeated Dupree four years earlier, the loss eliminated Persol from a pending title shot against Bob Foster and sent him into retirement.

"Sometimes I would say I feel cheated," said Persol, who still experiences double-vision. "But I have to look at it like it could have been worse. I was fortunate that way."

Persol, who now works as a trainer, said he would advise a fighter with such injuries to retire. "If you have any eye trouble, think twice about fighting," he said. "All the love you have for the game and all the money isn't going to replace your vision."

Statistics indicate that for fighters, retinal damage, or at least some kind of eye injury, is almost certain to occur in some form. According to a study Dr. Giovinazzo conducted in 1987, with any given fighter, there is a direct relation between the number of retinal tears and the number of bouts and losses. He found incidents of retinal tears in 90 percent of fighters with more than 40 bouts and six losses. Giovinazzo added that a study conducted with amateur boxers in Austria last year produced almost identical results.

Giovinazzo also found that 19 percent of the fighters he examined developed cataract, and 20 percent had angular recession, which is a tear on the inside of the eye where the iris is connected. However, doctors are better equipped to handle eye injuries now, largely because they can often diagnose them more quickly.

"Early diagnosis is the key," said Giovinazzo. "If we identify a tear [in the retina] early, we can repair it and prevent a detachment."

New York requires a comprehensive annual ophthalmological exam for any fighter wishing to fight in the state. Giovinazzo dilates the pupils and looks into the eye, checking for retinal damage, cataract, and angle recession, and measuring the vision field. To fight in New York, a boxer must have 20/40 corrected vision (approximately the same required for a driver's license) or 20/200 uncorrected vision in each eye.

While New York and New Jersey require strict eye exams, some states do not, including Nevada. Only after the Nevada commission is alerted to a pre-existing eye injury will a fighter be sent for an ophthalmological.

"Julian Jackson is evaluated before and after every fight," explained Dr. Flip Homansky. "Our feeling is that with proper care and proper followup, a fighter like Julian Jackson is at no increased risk. Are these people safe to box again? Yes."

In New York, if a fighter with a pre-existing injury passes the eye exam, as Iran Barkley did in 1992, he is required to return for another exam two weeks after the fight. In California, once a fighter has suffered a retinal injury, he won't be licensed to box there again, whether or not it's been treated. (The British Board of Boxing Control enforces the same rule.) THE RING has learned, however, that California is amending the rule. If the retinal damage is surgically repaired, the fighter will be licensed to fight, but must submit to a thorough eye exam five days before a fight and five days after. Also, like New York, California will require all fighters to undergo an annual ophthalomogical. If a fighter with a previous retinal injury passes the required tests, he must then sign a release, acknowledging there is an increased risk of an eye injury.

"I talked to appropriate experts in the field, and the rule was too conservative," said Dr. Robert Karns, chief physician for the California commission. "The relative risk was minimal. If the retina is repaired correctly, a fighter should be able to fight on a fight-to-fight basis."

"We need a national safety standard," said Giovinazzo. "The problem is that it's done differently in each state. The state regulations can go from being firm, to nothing, to being too strict."

Until every commission operates with the same rulebook, fighters with eye problems will find places to fight. Fortunately, the current standards are closer to being "too strict" than to being "nothing." Boxing cannot afford another Sugar Ray Seales. ■

Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to THE RING.

Robinson-Duran

(Continued from page 31)

well as now, was to build up their records against modest opposition while maneuvering their way into a big fight.

Though Robinson's adversaries were generally a notch or two above the type of opponents Duran has been fighting the last few years, he also fought his share of tomato cans. After dropping back-to-back decisions to Memo Ayon in Tijuana and Stan Harrington in Honolulu in '65, "The Sugarman" won a 10-rounder over Harvey McCullough, a preliminary fighter who boxed under the name of Young Joe Walcott. Robinson was so pleased with the result, he fought McCullough twice more in less than three months. But McCullough was a hall of famer compared to Bill Henderson—or at least someone claiming to be Bill Henderson.

On September 15, 1965, in Norfolk, Virginia, Robinson was awarded a second-round TKO when referee Jack Levine walked out of the ring, "disgusted" because Henderson, who was cringing on the canvas at the time, had refused to put up a fight. A subsequent investigation revealed that Henderson was a ringer named Neil Morrison.

The Virginia Athletic Commission changed the result to no-contest, but no action was taken against Morrison, who was already under indictment in New Jersey for armed robbery. Robinson was exonerated from any blame, but it was sad to see such a classy warrior associated with such a sordid event.

While Duran, 43, has not fought any impostors during his latest incarnation, hand-

foes such as Sean Fitzgerald, Tony ee, and Terry Thomas were sadly out of epth, even against a geriatric version of namanian legend. But this kind of making also has its drawbacks. Unlike on, who stayed in the gym and kept his down around the 160-pound mark most time, Duran is infamous for blowing up n fights and slacking off in training.

's hard to get him motivated for some of tuneup fights Roberto had on the USA rk," admitted Acri.

ough Duran was able to parlay his string y wins on USA into a $500,000 payday t Vinny Pazienza, it wasn't that easy back inson's day; you had to beat at least one d contender to earn a title shot, even if ere Sugar Ray Robinson. Rapidly running f options, his manager, George Gainford, d to promoter Don Elbaum for advice.

George called me in August 1965, and I to New York to meet with him and Ray," d Elbaum. "George wanted to know who, g the contenders, I thought Ray had a ce of beating. I told him I thought Joey er was the guy. I knew Joey couldn't and figured that would give Ray a good t beating him."

stead of going after Archer right away, m persuaded Robinson and Gainford to to a series of three fights, culminating the Archer bout. First there was a 10- d unanimous decision over Canadian erweight champion Peter Schmidt in stown, Pennsylvania. That was followed a third-round knockout of Jamaican neyman Rudolph Bent in Steubenville, . These tuneups were sparsely attended, a near-capacity crowd of 9,023 turned up at Pittsburgh Civic Arena on November 10 to ess the Archer fight. Robinson was in for percent of the gate and ended up with t $7,500. It was his biggest purse of a 14- year, but still a mere pittance compared to $576,000 he pocketed for his first fight with ilio.

It proved a bittersweet affair. Archer won a nimous decision, but Robinson, fighting the l bout of his brilliant career, covered self in glory. Even hard-bitten reporters, who'd been on the boxing beat for years had seen everything, were deeply moved by ar Ray's farewell performance.

"A remarkable man uplifted a boxing ience here last night," wrote Stan Isaacs in *sday*. "The outer limits of gallantry were ched by Ray Robinson in his fight against Joey Archer, and there was but one feeling in the arena: awe. Maybe there were tears, too. Robinson's effort was so magnificent, so stirring, he made this fight a significant part of his place in boxing—even though he lost, even though he took a beating."

It wasn't just Robinson's magnificent heart that was on display. There were also flashes of the magical skills that dazzled both fans and foes alike during his lengthy heyday.

"There were moments when he made you remember another Sugar Ray Robinson, moments when he did things none of today's champions know how to do," observed Pete Hamill in his *New York Post* account. "There was a combination in the second round—a right hand followed by two hooks and right to the heart—which was thrown with the old precision. In the third, he brought the crowd to its feet with a hook and a hook and a hook and a hook, bang-bang-bang-bang. In the fifth, he hooked off the jab as if he had never forgotten how, making it look as if he invented it. But when he was finished, Archer was still there."

There was a comparable moment in Duran's fight with Pazienza. It came in the fifth round, when Duran pulled the trigger on a perfectly timed right. The punch cut Paz' legs out from under him, and he pitched forward, face-first, to the floor. For a fleeting second, ringsiders saw the Duran of old. But after Pazienza got up, Duran went back to being just plain old.

A month after the Archer fight, Robinson, 175-19-6 (110) and 2 no-decisions, officially retired. Madison Square Garden held a ceremony prior to the Emile Griffith-Manuel Gonzalez welterweight title fight, and old foes Gene Fullmer, Randy Turpin, Bobo Olson, and Basilio were there to pay homage. Gordon MacRae sang "Auld Lang Syne," and when Sugar Ray took his final bow, there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

Duran, 93-10 (64), will attend a similar event one day. But not yet. His showing against Pazienza was good enough to warrant a rematch, and as the pay-per-view buy-rate exceeded expectations, they'll undoubtedly do it again.

There's something special about these all-too mortal immortals. Fans forgive them their infirmities and bask in the glow of their dimming light. If they are special enough, we want them to go on forever. But they can't. We know it. *They* know it. But in boxing, dreams always last longer than reflexes, even for the likes of Robinson and Duran. ■

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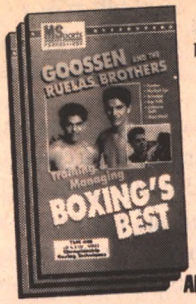

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Capsules

(Continued from page 33)

have the strength to half-stagger across the ring to congratulate the winner and still champion.

Georgie, his head swollen grotesquely to twice its normal size and wrapped in huge towels encased with ice, was rushed to the hospital across the street from the Garden. They worked frantically on him in the emergency room, with commission doctor Vincent Nardiello in charge. "That eye," said the doctor. "It's bad. I never saw any worse." Just how bad wasn't realized until two days later, when one specialist actually cautioned a family member that the eye "may have to be removed." Thank God Georgie kept his eye, and the next year Gene Tunney induced him to enlist in the U.S. Navy and join a group of other boxers in a physical fitness unit at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida, commanded by Tunney.

Honorably discharged from the Navy after four years of war service, Georgie returned to the blood sport he knew so well, and with the same burning ambition to become world champion. But the war had robbed him of four irreplaceable years, a lifetime for a professional fist fighter. It was 1946 and Georgie was 28 years old. "I feel the same as I did before," he told Dundee. "Let's go."

He warmed up in three bouts, against secondary foes. He breezed to a pair of decisions against Johnny Lawer, but was held to a very surprising draw by somebody called Jimmy Mandell. But the many eyebrows raised after that match quickly dropped back down after Georgie easily outboxed world-class Steve Belloise, his old Navy buddy.

Zale was still middleweight champion of the world. But boxing's big bang was a charismatic Frenchman named Marcel Cerdan, who had never set foot in America. An international title match between Zale and Cerdan became the goal of promoter Mike Jacobs. But first, Cerdan had to prove to skeptical Americans that he had the right stuff. Glowing reports about his fantastic overseas conquests fell on mostly deaf ears in the USA. "Yeah, we've heard all that before," was the general reaction. Dundee convinced Jacobs that Abrams would be the ideal test for France's most illustrious hero.

Madison Square Garden was packed the night of December 6, 1946. More than 2,000 crew members from the great French ocean liner Normandy, docked in New York, became delirious when a huge French tri-color was unfurled from the Garden's rafters, directly across from Old Glory, and announcer Harry Balough's golden voice proclaimed, "Everybody please rise for the playing of the French national anthem." The idea to display the French flag was the brain-child of veteran boxing publicist and associate editor of THE RING, Willis "Jersey" Jones.

But the deafening French cheers quickly became hushed whispers when Georgie drilled through Monsieur Cerdan's peekaboo defense with an educated left jab that seemed to have a brain of its own. Marcel was off-balance more often than not, and most of his trademark rights badly missed their objectives. At the end of 10 rounds, most of the audience thought Abrams the winner by a comfortable margin. Even many of the Normandy's crew headed for the exits with bowed heads. But the only opinions that counted were those of the officials, who gave the decision to Marcel. Both judges scored even in rounds, but leaned to Cerdan on points.

After dropping highly questionable decisions to Sugar Ray Robinson and Fred Apostoli in 1947, a frustrated Abrams would tell *The New York Times*, "I wish they had some kind of machine to count the punches and maybe even show how hard or soft a punch was. I think that's the only way we'll ever get really fair decisions."

Georgie was 30 years old. Those marvelous legs that had carried him down the glory road for so long were now betraying him when he needed them most. He also desperately needed just one more big-money shot to ease him into retirement. It appeared he had it when, on March 22, 1948, Dundee called to tell Georgie, "We have Robinson again, April 21. Chicago." Georgie was overjoyed. Convinced he had been jobbed in their first bout, there was nobody he wanted more than "The Sugarman." But seven days before the scheduled rematch, Ray pulled out. Influenza, you know. That was the 16th time in his brief career (he would fight on for another 17 years) that Robinson had pulled out of a fight, which makes him the undisputed all-time champion in that ignominious category.

Substituting for Robinson was Anton Raadik, who, on paper, seemed safe as a babe in its mother's arms. After all, one year before, Georgie had bewildered Raadik, capturing nine of 10 rounds by overwhelming margins. Forget that Raadik was unquestionably the deadliest right-hand hitter, pound for pound, in the trade. Only six months before, Raadik had clubbed Cerdan to the canvas three times in the final round, coming within a breath of flattening the Frenchman for the first time in his life.

There was something very strange about that second Abrams-Raadik fight in Chicago. Georgie appeared sharp and surprisingly fast. His jab was working to perfection. But for some reason Raadik's bombs were connecting about 80 percent of the time. And nothing made of flesh and bone could possibly withstand that kind of brutality. Georgie absorbed what was by far the worst beating of his career. How he managed to be standing going into the 10th round was miraculous. But Georgie didn't make it through that final round. Mercifully, referee Dave Miller stopped it, perhaps saving Georgie's life. A mere 45 seconds remained in the fight.

The mystery of why Georgie couldn't seem to avoid Raadik's bombs was finally solved a week after the fight when Dundee learned, quite by accident, that for unexplained reasons, the regular 24-foot ring in Chicago Stadium had been replaced with a 20-foot ring. Master boxers like Abrams train themselves to instinctively use every inch of available space to their advantage by keeping out of harm's

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y, particularly against killers like Raadik. u might say that extra space gives the sters a third arm-edge.

When the badly battered and thoroughly raught Abrams returned to New York, we lunch at the Garden cafeteria. Georgie , "Every time I moved backward, my back against the ropes. There was no place else go. I couldn't understand what was pening. There was always room behind me ore. Now I felt like [I was] in a trap. Like nimal ..."

Georgie wanted to register a protest with Illinois commission. But Dundee convinced it would be a waste of time. Dundee also le it clear that Georgie would never fight in. Never! "I own your contract," Chris . "And it's not for sale. To anybody. For price." Indeed, Georgie never fought again.

***

From then on, life seemed a one-way et. Downhill. Georgie went to parking cars Miami's plush hotels for two-bit tips. But he er lost that infectious grin. Or that poise of Southern gentleman he always was. He ved to Las Vegas, where—what else?—he ked cars at the plush casino-hotels. For *four-* tips. He also liked to ride his bicycle around Vegas Strip. His greatest joy was being ognized.

"Hey, Georgie, I seen you with Robinson at Garden. I figured you win seven of the 10 nds. You got robbed."

Such is the food of life for that rare breed of n of which Georgie Abrams will forever be ember. The phone call that told me Georgie passed away gave no details. I always gined that when he was found, he had a lf-stick of spearmint gum in his pocket. orgie always carried at least one half-stick. I er learned that he died of Alzheimer's ease at Las Vegas' Sunrise Hospital on June at age 75.

The world will be the same without Georgie rams, of course. But not *my* world. For now re is a gaping void that can never be filled.

So long, Georgie. ■

Molineaux

(Continued from page 45)

s then that Jem Ward, one of Cribb's nermen, made his disgraceful intervention saved the championship for England. Ward, who was to win the title himself some years later, rushed across the ring and accused Bill Richmond, the American's cornerman, of concealing two bullets in his fighter's fists to strengthen his punching power. It was the 19th century equivalent of the Jess Willard camp's allegation that Jack Dempsey had his hands encased in plaster of Paris in the 1919 massacre at Toledo, Ohio. Neither claim bore any justification.

Four minutes elapsed before Molineaux established the nonsense of the charge and the contestants agreed to continue. But by then the challenger's great chance had been lost. While Cribb had fully recovered, it was noticeable that the American was shivering from the inaction and the cold, wet weather. Yet Molineaux struggled on gamely for 55 minutes of what one report called "the most ferocious and sanguinary battle in the history of the English prize ring." In the 33rd round, he was badly dazed after hitting his head on the wooden corner stakes. He sank slowly to the ground, muttering to Richmond through swollen, blood-splattered lips, "I can fight no more."

Within three days Molineaux issued a public challenge for a return match, expressing the hope that the weather would be more favorable and that no prejudice would be shown toward him because of his nationality or color. Cribb, his sense of honor offended, promptly accepted.

The rematch took place at Thistleton Gap, a spot where the three English counties of Leicester, Lincoln, and Rutland met, on September 28, 1811, nine months after the initial encounter. This time Cribb took no chances. He put himself under the care of Capt. Robert Barclay, the noted health expert and long-distance walker, who got the normally corpulent champion into the best condition of his career.

Molineaux, on the other hand, scorned the best advice and enjoyed the popularity his brave bid for the title had brought him. Women and drink were more desirable preoccupations than the rigors of training.

Pierce Egan, author of *Boxiana* and the acknowledged supreme expert on the bare-knuckle sport, wrote, "the Black naturally had a taste for gaiety, was amorously inclined and full of gallantry—it is not surprising that the charms of the softer sex should warmly interest the attention of the lusty Moor."

Nevertheless, it was Molineaux who looked the likely winner when he severely battered the champion for the first five rounds, causing much damage to his eyes, nose, and mouth. But the American's lack of preparation cost him dearly when, in the sixth round, a terrific right to the body left him doubled over in pain and gasping for breath. He never fully recovered, and Cribb finished him off in the 11th round with a right to the head. Molineaux was found to have a broken jaw. Contemporary prints show the champion with his right eye swollen shut and his face bearing other marks of the dour battle. However, he had enough energy left to dance a jig of celebration with his jubilant supporters.

Cribb never fought again, although he held on to the British title for another seven years before announcing his retirement to run a bar in central London. Still known as "The Tom Cribb," it has several prints of its former illustrious landlord displayed on the walls.

For the vanquished Molineaux, it was all downhill. He did not fight again for two years, beating Jack Carter in 25 rounds. He won his only fight in 1814 on a foul, then lost the following year to George Cooper in 14 rounds.

Apart from sparring matches to eke out a meager living, he never fought again. He took to heavy drinking, but pulled himself together sufficiently to undertake a tour of Ireland with Cooper. They boxed exhibitions and taught the art of boxing to willing youngsters.

A challenge to the Irish champion, Dan Donnelly, was curtly rejected, and he was even more deeply wounded when Donnelly agreed to take on Cooper. The Irish hero won in 11 rounds at the spot on the Curragh of Kildare still known as Donnelly's Hollow.

It was obvious to all that Molineaux was in no condition to fight anyone. His greatest battle now was his fight for life. Looking like a walking skeleton, he spent his last few months dependent on the charity of fellow black Americans serving with the British Army in Ireland.

On August 4, 1818, the forerunner of the great black American heavyweight tradition breathed his last, reclining in the arms of his friends in the barrack rooms of the 77th Infantry Regiment in Galway.

He was just 34 years of age. ■

Patrick Myler is a staff journalist with the Evening Herald, in Dublin, Ireland. He has written two books on boxing.

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OSCAR DE LA HOYA 1992 Olympic gold medalist. Boxing's latest sensation**(C) $18.00
PADDY DEMARCO Former world lightweight champ(C) $15.00
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ROBERTO DURAN "The hands of stone" One of the Greatest ever. Very tough!!!****(C) $35.00
JIMMY ELLIS Former heavyweight champ 1967-1970*** $15.00
ALFREDO ESCALERA Super featherweight champ 1975-78. Tough autograph $15.00
JOHNNY FAMECHON World featherweight champion 1969-70. Lives in Australia**(C) $15.00
JEFF FENECH Three time world champion in three different divisions**(C) $18.00
BOB FOSTER One of the greatest light heavyweights EVER!!** $15.00
GENE FULLMER Two time middleweight champ. Boxing hall of famer*** $15.00
KID GAVILAN One of the most televised boxers during TV's "Golden Age"*** $25.00
JOEY GIARDELLO Middleweight champ 1963-65. Recent boxing hall of fame inductee $15.00
WILFREDO GOMEZ Three time world champion. Fought legendary battle with Salvador Sanchez **(C) $20.00
EMILE GRIFFITH Six time world champion!!!!** $15.00
JEFF HARDING Current WBC light heavyweight champion. Lives in Australia(C) $15.00
LARRY HOLMES Heavyweight champ 1978-85 ** (C) $25.00
BEAU JACK Headlined Madison Square Garden a record 21 Times!!!! $18.00
EDER JOFRE Two time champ 61-65, 73-74. Boxing hall of famer. A tough autograph $25.00
INGEMAR JOHANSSON Former world heavyweight champion*** $18.00
HAROLD JOHNSON Light heavyweight champ 1962-63. Recent hall of fame inductee** $15.00
JAKE LAMOTTA "The Raging Bull". Middleweight champ****(C) $25.00
ROLAND LASTARZA Top heavyweight contender. Fought Marciano twice!** $15.00
DANNY "LITTLE RED" LOPEZ Featherweight champ 1976-80***(C) $15.00
RAY "BOOM BOOM" MANCINI Crowd pleasing lightweight champ**(C) $15.00
JIMMY McLARNIN One of the oldest living former champs $25.00
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BOB MONTGOMERY "The Bobcat". Two time lightweight champ(C) $15.00
CARLOS MONZON Defended Middleweight title an amazing 14 times. A super tough autograph!!!!**(C) $65.00
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BOBO OLSON A gutsy champion during TV's Golden era**(C) $15.00
CARLOS PALOMINO Welter champ 76-79. A vicious body puncher*** $15.00
WILLIE PASTRANO Lightheavyweight champ 1963-65. A clever boxer $15.00
EUSEBIO PEDROZA Defended featherweight title a record 20 Times!!!!!(C) $15.00
WILLIE PEP Fought 242 bouts and lost only eleven $15.00
DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI aka Dwight Braxton "The Camden buzzsaw"(C) $15.00
JERRY QUARRY Fought legendary bouts with Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier**(C) $15.00
SUGAR RAMOS Featherweight champ 63-64. A tough autograph. Lives in Mexico $18.00
LUIS RODRIGUEZ Welterweight champ 1963. Extremely tough autograph!! $25.00
EDWIN "CHAPO" ROSARIO Three time world champ. Tough autograph!!(C) $18.00
LIONEL ROSE The first aboriginal world champion. Lives in Australia** $15.00
MIKE ROSSMAN "The Jewish bomber". Light heavyweight champ 1978-79 ..... $15.00
JOHNNY SAXTON Two time welterweight champ. Popular 50's TV fighter $18.00
EARNIE SHAVERS One of the hardest hitting heavyweights in history**** $15.00
LEON SPINKS 76 Olympic gold medalist. Heavyweight champ****(C) $15.00
"BIG JOHN" TATE Heavyweight champ 1979-80**(C) $18.00
ERNIE TERRELL Tallest heavyweight champ ever 6'6**** $15.00
PINKLON THOMAS Heavyweight champ 1984-86**(C) $15.00
JAMES "LIGHTS OUT" TONEY 1991 Fighter of the year. Two time world champion**(C) $25.00
VIC TOWEEL Bantamweight World Champ 1950-1952 (C)** $15.00
JERSEY JOE WALCOTT Heavyweight champion 1951-52. Fought Louis & Marciano** $95.00
MIKE WEAVER Nicknamed "Hercules". Heavyweight champ(WBA) 1980-82 ..... $15.00

CLEVELAND WILLIAMS Hard hitting heavy. Fought Liston & Ali .....
IKE WILLIAMS Lightweight champ 1947-51. "Ring" fighter of the year 1948** .....
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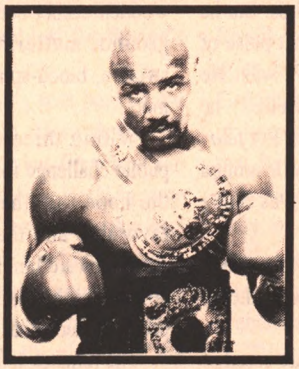
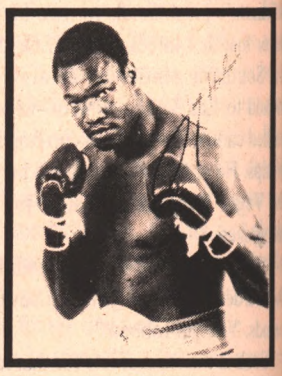
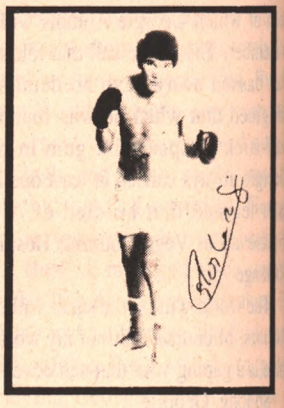
MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER Legendary middleweight champion .....







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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

Some folks, yours truly included, fall in love with one of the great fights of all-time and attempt to collect all the material relating to that fight. For lots of us, one of those fights is Robinson-LaMotta VI.

In 1950, the boxing world was run not by Don King and alphabet soup organizations, but by James Norris and the International Boxing Club (IBC). It was Norris who engineered and controlled the weekly prime-time TV fight cards that gave many current collectors their first peek at boxing. And it was the middleweights who provided all the high drama. If you're not a child of the '50s, here's how it went:

The '40s had provided enough good middleweight fights for a lifetime. Tony Zale had beaten Rocky Graziano in two of their three legendary bouts. Zale was then handily beaten by French legend Marcel Cerdan, who in turn was dethroned by Jake LaMotta. Cerdan was roughhoused to the canvas early in that fight and suffered a shoulder injury that led to his downfall in round 10. As a result, the boxing world called for a rematch.

After one postponement, Cerdan was tragically killed in an airplane crash in October 1949. Now who would LaMotta fight? The answer was clear—Sugar Ray Robinson. LaMotta had already faced Robinson five times (and won only once), with all of the bouts going the distance. Robinson had since become the world welterweight champion and was moving up in weight.

LaMotta went into a stall, taking four non-title bouts (one of which he lost), before successfully defending against European titleholder Tiberio Mitri. The call for a bout with Robinson then intensified. But LaMotta instead defended against another Frenchman, Laurent Dauthuille, whom he kayoed in the 15th round.

Not long ago, a few documents turned up in the estate of former fighter and IBC official Fred Saddy, including signed contracts and a letter. The letter is typed but signed by LaMotta, and addressed to National Boxing Association Commissioner Abe Greene. In it, LaMotta acknowledges the pressure to defend against Robinson.

As for Sugar Ray, manager George Gainford signed contracts to fight the winner of LaMotta-Dauthuille. (These contracts were also part of the Saddy estate.) After LaMotta roared from behind to kayo Dauthuille, the stage was set for his defense against Robinson, to take place at Chicago Stadium on St. Valentine's Day, 1951.

According to the contract, LaMotta was guaranteed 45 percent of the gross and Robinson 15 percent, "less expenses."

As for the fight itself, the climax was dramatically depicted on screen in *Raging Bull*, with LaMotta hanging on to the ropes after the carnage was stopped in the 13th round. LaMotta boasted that Robinson never put him down. Maybe so, but "The Raging Bull" was never the same, and Robinson's magnificent career at 160 pounds was just beginning.

So what would bits of memorabilia from that fight cost you? The ticket is worth $400 or more, and the stub about $40. The program, which I'm looking for (as are several other collectors), would sell for about $400, maybe more. I have never seen the poster, but that ought to go for $600-700 or more. I am not aware of any equipment from the fight having survived. You folks in the Chicago area should start looking around!

Other items, such as the issue of THE RING that covered the fight, would sell for about $20. Signed photos of LaMotta go for $20-30, and Robinson $100-150. There are lots of "secretarial" photos of Robinson floating around, so watch out.

All considered, it's easy to see why a collector, or an average fan, would fall in love with one of the most celebrated fights of all-time. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collector's News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of July

WBA
as of June

IBF
as of July

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	2	2
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	11	12
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	6	5
Larry Donald (USA)	5	12	9
Bruce Seldon (USA)	6	3	3
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	7	9	–
Alexandre Zolkin (RUS)	8	–	–
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	7	6
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	12	4	–
Frans Botha (SA)	18	5	10
Buster Mathis (USA)	15	8	7
Nate Tubbs (USA)	22	10	11
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	–	4
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	9	8
Carl Thompson (GB)	2	10	10
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	–	12
Kenny Keene (USA)	4	7	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	5	–	4
Chemak Saleta (POL)	6	–	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	7	–	–
Jade Scott (USA)	8	–	7
Akim Tafer (FRA)	9	12	11
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	1	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	12	2	–
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	6
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	18	5	–
James Warring (USA)	16	6	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	8	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	17	–	2
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	11	–	3
Richard Mason (USA)	29	11	5

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (JAM)	C	4	4
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	12
Randall Yonker (USA)	2	11	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	8	2
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	4	3	7
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	5	5	11
Charles Williams (USA)	6	–	1
Ernest Mateen (USA)	7	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	8	7	8
Maurice Core (GB)	9	–	–
Dan Schommer (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	12	6	–
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	9	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	–	3
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	13	12	5
John Scully (USA)	29	–	6
Crawford Ashley (GB)	19	–	9
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	1	8
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	9	4
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	3	–	9
Tim Littles (USA)	4	6	3
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	5	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	6	3	5
Tony Byrd (USA)	7	2	1
Kenny Bowman (USA)	8	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	9	–	–
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	22	4	11
James Cook (GB)	–	5	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	7	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	11	8	12
Warren Williams (USA)	–	10	–
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	15	–	6
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	7
Ray Close (GB)	20	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	12	11
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	–	4
Quincy Taylor (USA)	3	9	9
Lamar Parks (USA)	4	–	7
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	5	4	1
Neville Brown (GB)	6	–	8
Joe Lipsey (USA)	7	11	5
Richie Woodhall (GB)	8	–	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	9	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	10	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	1	3
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	2	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	16	5	2
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	17	6	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	7	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	–	8	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	10	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	11	–	6
Derrick Rolon (USA)	14	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Carl Daniels (USA)	1	3	3
Simon Brown (USA)	2	8	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	3	4	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	4	10	11
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	8
Stephen Martinez (USA)	6	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	7	11	7
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	8	2	9
Patrick Mbehbenle (CAMER)	9	–	–
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	10	–	–
Ronald Wright (USA)	–	1	6
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	5	1
Tony Marshall (USA)	15	6	10
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	26	7	–
Curtis Summit (USA)	20	9	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	11	–	4
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	5

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
James McGirt (USA)	1	9	5
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	2
Gary Jacobs (GB)	3	6	6
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	4	8	8
Andrew Murray (GUY)	5	3	4
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	6	–	–
Santos Cardona (PR)	7	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	8	–	–
Kenny Gould (USA)	9	–	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	10	–	7
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	1	1
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	–	2	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	12	4	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	14	5	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	10
Oba Carr (USA)	–	10	3
Harold Brazier (USA)	13	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	1	10
David Kamau (USA)	2	7	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	3	–	1

opez (USA)	4	–	–
amache (USA)	5	–	–
Rojas (CHILE)	6	–	–
ineda (COL)	7	4	6
Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
Smith (USA)	9	–	–
stello (USA)	10	–	–
Rahilou (FRA)	18	2	12
Cortes (ARG)	–	3	–
gman (SA)	–	5	–
rk (KOR)	28	6	–
Scott (USA)	19	8	11
Kayumba (FRA)	20	9	–
n Merle (FRA)	26	10	–
Sanchez (DR)	–	–	2
Moore (USA)	–	–	3
Murray (USA)	15	–	4
adilla (COL)	–	–	5
ni Parisi (ITA)	–	–	7
Pendleton (USA)	–	–	8
Tyson (USA)	12	–	9

TWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
w Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
ker Johnson (USA)	1	1	2
Julio (COL)	2	5	1
ptist Mendy (FRA)	3	11	–
Marchena (MEX)	4	–	7
Rocha (COL)	5	–	–
Silva (ARG)	6	–	–
ntantesz (USA)	7	–	–
Cervera (COL)	8	–	–
Lawal (DEN)	9	–	–
kubowski (USA)	10	–	12
amache (USA)	–	2	–
Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
pez (USA)	–	4	6
ffith (USA)	17	6	–
Molina (COL)	23	7	3
i Taroreh (INDO)	30	8	–
Takeda (JAP)	–	9	–
noy (PHIL)	–	10	–
Marimon (COL)	–	–	4
hwer (GB)	–	–	5
rk (USA)	–	–	8
hnston (USA)	–	–	9
Thobela (SA)	13	–	10

GHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
mes Leija (USA)	C	–	–
Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
hn Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Ruelas (USA)	1	4	4
Garcia (COL)	2	–	–
Grove (USA)	3	10	2
Tuur (HOLL)	4	–	–
Alexandrov (RUS)	5	–	–
on (USA)	6	8	5
Hugo Paz (ARG)	7	3	–
Speed (USA)	8	–	12
p (CAN)	9	–	–
ohnson (TRIN)	10	–	–
Garcia (COL)	–	1	–
Guevara (VEN)	20	2	–
Warren (USA)	14	5	–
Yoma (FRA)	12	6	6
o Choi (KOR)	26	7	–
Rodriguez (DR)	11	9	1
Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Gatti (USA)	19	–	7
eratore (USA)	13	–	8
Nelson (GHA)	–	–	9
o Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	10

ERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
jas (VEN)	–	C	–
nson (USA)	–	–	C
to (MEX)	1	–	–
o Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	7
Arrozal (PHIL)	3	3	4
eno (COL)	4	6	2
Lizarraga (USA)	5	–	10
o Segura (USA)	6	9	1
een (USA)	7	–	3
yun Park (KOR)	8	2	–
a Ramos (DR)	9	–	–

Louie Espinoza (USA)	10	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	14	4	–
Samart Payakaroon (THAI)	–	5	–
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	29	7	–
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	8	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	10	6
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Orlando Soto (PAN)	17	–	8
Benny Amparo (USA)	19	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	4
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	9	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	5	–	–
Nestor Farias (ARG)	6	8	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	7	–	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	8	4	–
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	9	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	–	10
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	2	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	17	3	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	21	5	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	19	6	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	12	3
Maui Diaz (USA)	24	–	7
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	27	–	8
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	4
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	2	11	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	–	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	5	–	–
John Armour (GB)	6	–	7
Roberto Moran (ARG)	7	–	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	8	6	2
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	10	8	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	1	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	11	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	12	3	9
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	5	–
Isaias Zamudio (MEX)	–	7	10
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	9	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	26	–	3
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	19	–	5
Sergio Reyes (USA)	–	–	6
Abraham Torres (VEN)	29	–	8

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	1	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	9	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	3	2	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	4	–	11
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	5	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	7	4	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	8	–	3
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	3	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	5	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	23	6	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	19	7	–
In Sik Koh (KOR)	17	8	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2

Johnny Tapia (USA)	11	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	6
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	7
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	8
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	9
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	15	–	10

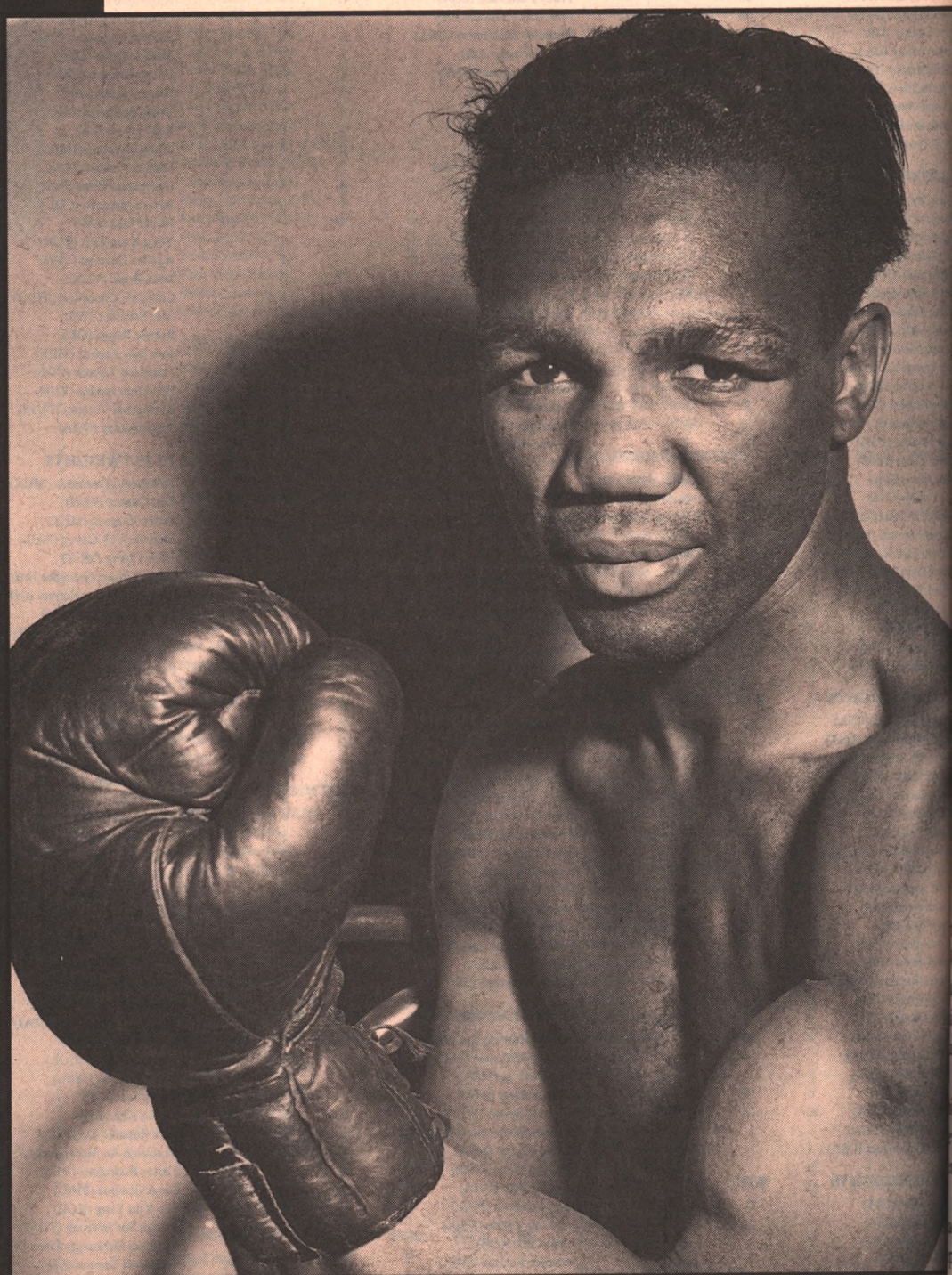
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	11	–
Chatchai Eric-Gym (THAI)	2	12	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	9
Mark Johnson (USA)	4	–	4
Danny Romero (USA)	5	–	5
Danny Nunez (DR)	6	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	7	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	9	–	10
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	27	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	26	3	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	5	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	6	–
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	18	7	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	23	8	–
Robbie Regan (GB)	16	9	7
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	10	1
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	22	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	25	–	3
Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	8

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	1	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	9	5
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	4	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	5	–	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	6	4	2
Toto Pow Phongsawang (THAI)	7	–	–
Pablo Tiznado (MEX)	8	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	9	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	10	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	18	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	26	2	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	3	1
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	5	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	15	6	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	12	8	4
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	27	–	7
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	9
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	7	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	11
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	5	1	–
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	6	–	8
Yodsingh Au Suwannasilp (THAI)	7	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	8	2	1
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	9	12	5
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	10	5	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	–	4	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	26	6	2
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	8	–
Songkram Porpaoin (PHIL)	11	9	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	23	10	–
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	3
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	4
Juan Herrera (COL)	15	–	6
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	7
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	9
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

SECOND-HAND TALENT



Chalky Wright became featherweight champion of the world, but before his coronation, he was hardly a hot property. In fact, manager Eddie Mead gave him away.

From THE RING, November 1953

Lester Bromberg

Take the guy. He isn't going to be more than sparring partner staying around my stable," Eddie Mead ed. "I don't want him. I can't use him."

So it happened that Eddie Walker, Mead's etime associate, got Chalky Wright, whom he aged to the featherweight championship.

At the time, Wright was little more than the l company of Henry Armstrong, Mead's ace, 'd held the featherweight title en route to e-crown distinction. The process of being cast ft had a tonic effect on Chalky. It made him t back.

Mead also had presented to Walker idleweight Artie Dorrell, who proved an ian gift. He just wouldn't stay with Walker. Chalky, an old man when the transfer was cted, thrived with Walker. He was giving the ear mark a close brush in his final fight.

Mead's colorful managerial career included erosities that frequently outbulked his fleshy n. And it is conceivable he meant to give ker a break. You hardly could say as much for countless managers who have chased fighters, to find them forging to prominence, plus s, under the direction of others.

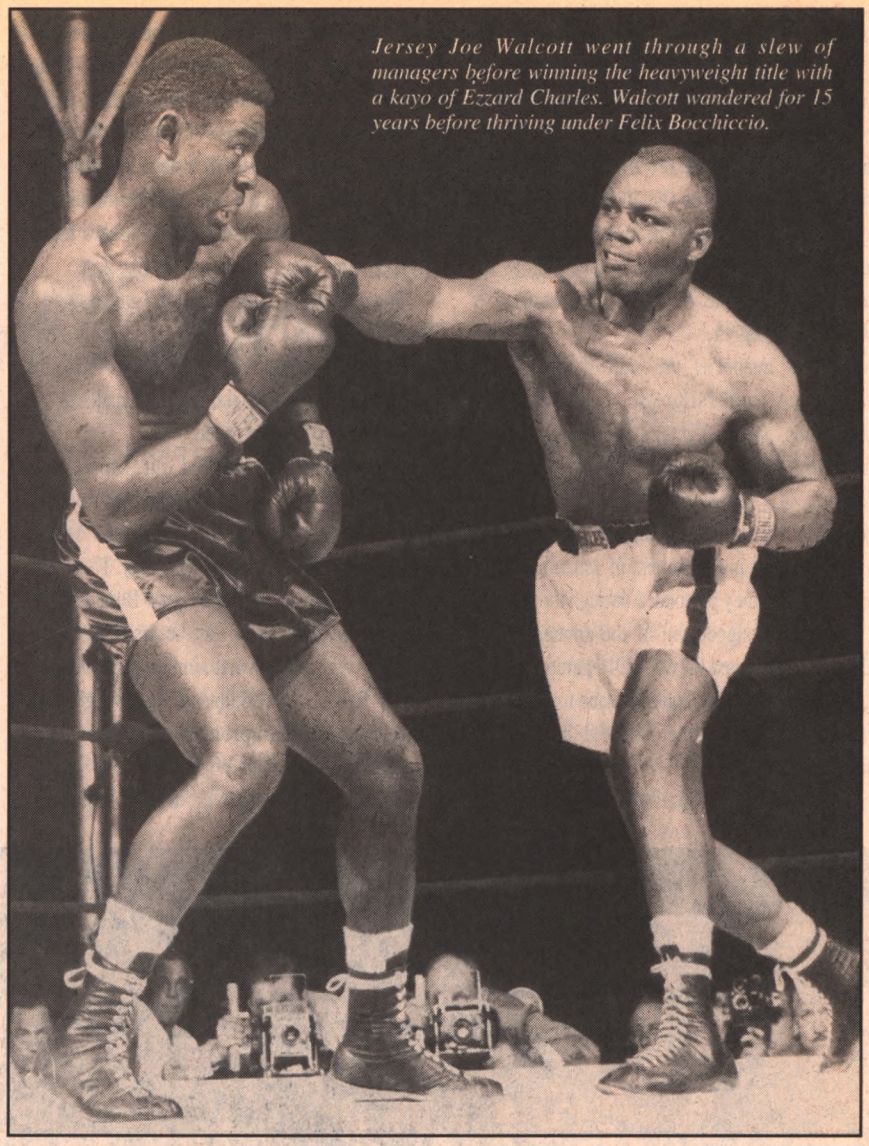
In the great majority of cases, somebody ght he was unloading excess baggage. He dn't see the true potential because of a blind . It is no secret that blind spots often are an upational hazard in managing fighters. ause of this fact, considerable ring talent, past present, falls short of recognition until it is nd-hand merchandise. Second-hand? etimes third-hand, and well beyond.

***

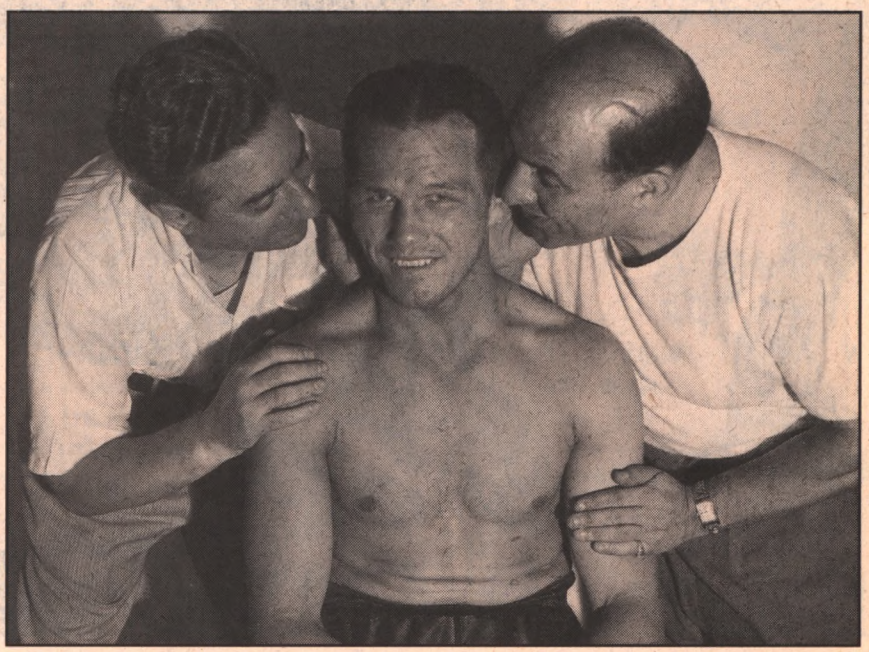
Nobody can provide an accurate tally of the ber of managers who gave up on Jersey Joe lcott, in addition to those he quit, in his less first 15 years. "A good puncher," one of early sponsors said of Walcott, "but he don't through. He gets tired."

There was an excellent example of blind-spot king. The manager who'd passed the opinion r bothered to learn how things were in the onal life of the fighter.

Already father of a large family, which finally hed a total of six youngsters, Jersey Joe was iving himself of necessities in their interest. ad neither the proper food for bodily strength the facilities for adequate rest. It is more than ncidence that the first kindness Felix chiccio extended to Walcott, when that ager took over, was for the home: a holiday



Jersey Joe Walcott went through a slew of managers before winning the heavyweight title with a kayo of Ezzard Charles. Walcott wandered for 15 years before thriving under Felix Bocchiccio.



Before Tony Zale met Sam Pian and Art Winch, he was ready to give up boxing and work in the steel mills of Gary, Indiana. The co-managers led Zale to the middleweight title.

turkey and a ton of coal.

Though an amateur in the matter of managerial experience, Bocchiccio was professionally prompt in realizing Joe needed no ring tutoring, just peace of mind. With an unworried outlook for the first time, Walcott flowered in the twilight of an average fighter's career. When he knocked out Ezzard Charles for the heavyweight title, he was, in the words of a wit, "37 going on 45."

In other instances, the fault of the original handler has been failure to obtain the right opportunities for his fighter's advancement. Tony Zale came out of the Golden Gloves with the requisites of a comer. He could punch, he could take it. He'd proven these things slugging his way to high standing in tournament in which he had to face the best as they percolated through the field.

Zale was snagged out of the amateurs by a fellow who assumed he was still operating under AAU rules. He tossed Tony into one tough match after another. For a while, Zale's ability took the manager off the spot.

The competition became tougher, and Zale wasn't equipped for it in experience or schooling. He discovered he was going back rather than forward, and decided he'd be better off working for a living in the steel mills of Gary, Indiana, his hometown. Still, Tony couldn't stay away from the fights in nearby Chicago. One night he met Benny Ray, a veteran of the game who'd always had a soft spot in his heart for a lion-heart like Zale.

"It wasn't your fault you didn't make good," Benny told him. "You were being managed wrong. You need somebody like Sam Pian and Art Winch. Sam will make the right matches for you. Art will get you in shape."

The hookup was worked out. Slowly but surely, a new Zale was in the making. Roughly four years later the undisputed world middleweight title was Tony's property. There was sadness, though in the capping of Benny Ray's dream. Benny died before Zale became champ.

There was a somewhat similar situation with Barney Ross, whose fame as lightweight and welterweight champion always has been associated with the Pian-Winch axis.

While a Golden Glover, Barney had been very friendly with Jackie Fields, the welterweight king who was managed by Gig Rooney. It was doing what came naturally for Ross to go with Gig when he turned pro.

Barney went to the Pacific Coast with Fields and Rooney. He had a few fights there, but something was lacking, in spite of his affection and respect for Jackie, It could have been homesickness. In any event, Ross, always straightforward, told Rooney, and the latter agreed to release him.

Once home, he joined up with Pian and Winch. Their problem wasn't teaching. Barney had an aptitude for boxing's slicker tricks. It involved control of his occasionally over-exuberant temperament. How well they cooled down Ross is indicated by the record. Within two years he was whipping veterans, and within four years he was lightweight champion. The East couldn't believe it when he took the title in Chicago from the peerless Tony Canzoneri. He'd done it in 10 rounds, and the cynics said, "Wait till Tony gets him in New York in 15." Barney retained the title in New York in 15.

Heavyweight Nino Valdes celebrates after his victory over Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson. The Cuban's career was resurrected by New York's Bobby Gleason, after manager Luis Gutierrez had written him off. Valdes also scored a surprise win over Ezzard Charles.

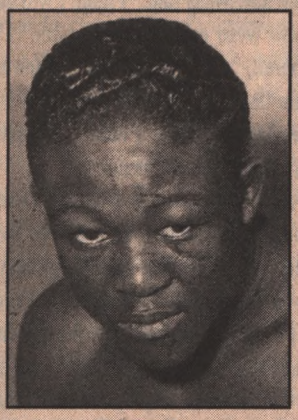
Recently, Bobby Gleason, peppery Bronx operator and manager, resurrected two ters, heavyweight Nino Valdes and dleweight Tuzo Portuguez, both of whom been written off by manager Luis Gutierrez, g others.

In a three-day span, both hit the jackpot, Valdes upsetting ex-titleholder Ezzard Charles at Miami Beach, and Portuguez scoring over Jesse Turner at Milwaukee in an underdog role.

"I know Gutierrez had to be a good manager; he discovered and made a great fighter out of Kid Chocolate," Gleason was saying the other day. "But he mishandled Valdes and Portuguez, especially Valdes. Valdes is nearly 29 and has lots of fighting left in him. Imagine having this guy when he was only 17, and not going places with him!"

Gleason's alertness to the modern way of doing things is borne out of the tenacity with which he battled to put the big fellow on national

THE RING RATINGS, *November 1953*



Kid Gavilan

EAVYWEIGHTS
orld Champ: Rocky arciano, Brockton, MA

1. **Roland LaStarza**, New York, NY
2. **Dan Bucceroni**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
4. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
5. **Heinz Neuhaus**, Germany
6. **Don Cockell**, England
7. **Earl Walls**, Canada
8. **Tommy Harrison**, Oakland, CA
9. **Karl Sys**, Belgium
10. **Harry Matthews**, Seattle, WA

GHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
orld Champ: Archie Moore, Louis, MO

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
3. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad
4. **Danny Nardico**, Tampa, FL
5. **Jimmy Slade**, New York, NY
6. **Billy Smith**, Oakland, CA
7. **Larry Watson**, Omaha, NE
8. **Gerhard Hecht**, Germany
9. **Jacques Hairabedian**, France
10. **Charley Angelee**, Providence, RI

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Randolph Turpin**, England
2. **Carl (Bobo) Olson**, Honolulu, HI
3. **Rocky Castellani**, Luzerne, PA
4. **Joe Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Paddy Young**, New York, NY
6. **Charley Humez**, France
7. **Joey Giambra**, Buffalo, NY
8. **Ralph Jones**, Yonkers, NY
9. **Randy Sandy**, New York, NY
10. **Pierre Langlois**, France

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Kid Gavilan, Cuba

1. **Johnny Bratton**, Chicago, IL
2. **Gil Turner**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Johnny Saxton**, Brooklyn, NY
4. **Carmen Basilio**, Syracuse, NY
5. **Billy Graham**, New York, NY
6. **Art Aragon**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Freddie Dawson**, Chicago, IL
8. **Gilbert Lavoine**, France
9. **Del Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
10. **Ramon Fuentes**, Los Angeles, CA

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: James Carter, New York, NY

1. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
2. **Paddy DeMarco**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **George Araujo**, Providence, RI
4. **Wallace (Bud) Smith**, Cincinnati, OH
5. **Arthur King**, Canada
6. **Orlando Zulueta**, Cuba
7. **Eddie Chavez**, San Jose, CA
8. **Armando Savoie**, Canada
9. **Henry Davis**, Honolulu, HI
10. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler, U.S. Army

1. **Willie Pep**, Hartford, CT
2. **Teddy Davis**, Hartford, CT
3. **Baby Ortiz**, Mexico
4. **Percy Bassett**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Roy Ankarah**, West Africa
6. **Lulu Perez**, Brooklyn, NY
7. **Dave Gallardo**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Ciro Morasen**, Cuba
9. **Bill Bossio**, Hartsdale, NY
10. **Charley Riley**, St. Louis, MO

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jimmy Carruthers, Australia

1. **Robert Cohen**, France
2. **Henry (Pappy) Gault**, Spartanburg, SC
3. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Peter Keenan**, Scotland
5. **Maurice Sandeyron**, France
6. **Emile Chemama**, France
7. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
8. **Gianna Zuddas**, Italy
9. **Chamrern Songkitrat**, Thailand
10. **Orlando Castillo**, Cuba

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Yoshio Shirai, Japan

1. **Jake Tuli**, South Africa
2. **Tanny Campo**, Philippines
3. **Terry Allen**, England
4. **Louis Skena**, France
5. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
6. **Charley Bohbot**, French Morocco
7. **Vic Herman**, Scotland
8. **Nazzarino Giannelli**, Italy
9. **Young Martin**, Spain
10. **Eric Marsden**, England

television. He understood the advertising value of a coaxial appearance. It was because of Valdes' TV fight with light heavyweight champion Archie Moore (though he lost) that Miami Beach matchmaker Chris Dundee became interested in Nino for Charles. Bobby also understood Valdes' personality, that of a naive, superstitious Latin, and humored the chap when he insisted he could fight better if he practiced certain back-country Cuban rites which border on voodooism.

With Portuguez, Spanish-speaking, too, but a shrewd, suspicious cookie who'd been kicked around, Gleason took another tack. He said, "You're in this to make money, right? So do as I tell you and you'll make a lot of money."

For the first time since he'd come here from Costa Rica, Portuguez began to pay strict attention to training. An excellent showing against Joey Giambra, new middleweight star, whom he floored, was a tipoff. Then came his tripping of Turner.

Charley Rose, 68-year-old manager and booking agent, is virtually a legend in boxing for his rejuvenation of fighters whom others wrote off. Here's the story of his masterpiece: When Joe Louis was riding high as monarch of the heavyweights, he had both a personal and profit-motive interest in Holman Williams, a highly competent but also highly unspectacular middleweight. Even with the pressure Louis could exert, Williams' talent was not easily saleable. One night in Los Angeles, with Joe in a ringside seat, Williams and Charley Burley were heaved, the affair declared a no-contest.

In desperation, Louis threw in the sponge and asked Charley Rose to take over.

"I like fighters with a family," Rose was explaining, "because I know I can appeal to them to make good for their kids. Holman had three."

Williams responded to Charley with the obedience of a faithful pooch to a gentle master. For this allegedly washed-up fighter, Rose booked 76 fights. And Holman won most of them before Charley retired him five years later at 35, give or take a few years.

When Marty Servo couldn't go through with his welterweight title defense against Ray Robinson because of a nose injury, Rose accepted the shot with Sugar on three days notice. But Robinson paid Williams a compliment, saying, "I wouldn't fight him for anything."

In the old days, any time a top fighter's manager passed away, the fighter inevitably appealed to Charley to take him over. But his managerial zeal never ran over his heart. Paul Berlenbach, broke financially and broken physically, was one of Rose's belated starters. In Paul's first fight for him, at Ridgewood Grove, he knocked out Larry Estridge. He didn't look good, however, and when the New York Boxing Commission intimated Berlenbach's boxing license would not be renewed, Charley turned him into a wrestler. He just wanted Paul to get a buck.

Joe Louis once had an interest in Holman Williams, a world-class, albeit unspectacular, middleweight. When Charley Rose took over, Williams thrived, fighting 76 bouts and making several decent paydays.

Harry Wills similarly wound up under the Rose banner. In bouts he made for Ol' Har', the old-timer showed some of his previous form. Then, one day, Wills said, "I think I will quit."

"There were more fights in him," Charley remembered, "and cuts for me. I didn't try to sway him because a man is entitled to make up his own mind. I'm glad I didn't. He has all his marbles today—and all his money."

A resounding success with a seemingly washed-up veteran has been achieved these last few years by Jack Hurley, managing Harry "Kid" Matthews, the Pacific Northwest heavyweight. Matthews, who'd started fighting pro at 15 in 1937, had retired a couple of times out of sheer disgust with his lack of progress under managers from and around Seattle. And here's a switch: He heard of Hurley and went to him in Chicago to ask him to become his manager.

Jack, known for his results with Billy Petrolle, Billy Marquart, and Vince Foster, among others, listened to Matthews' appeal and said, "All right, we'll cut purses 50-50 and I'll pay expenses."

Amazed, Matthews answered, "Why, I've paid managers as little as 15 percent."

"That's probably all they were worth," Hurley snapped.

After Harry accepted Jack's deal, Hurley saw

Harry "Kid" Matthews signs for a showdown with top-rated heavyweight contender Rocky Marciano as world champion Jersey Joe Walcott and promoter Jim Norris look on. Matthews was kayoed by Marciano, but has thrived since teaming with manager Jack Hurley.

atthews in one fight—a running, jabbing win—and promptly changed his yle.

"My fighters fight," he said. "They knock fighters out or they get ocked out. Hitting is timing and leverage. Anybody can learn."

This system zoomed Harry the Kid into the limelight—and big money—d he's still up there, even if he was sidetracked somewhat in a knockout by ocky Marciano and a split decision loss to Don Cockell.

It is interesting to note that Eddie Mead, who'd handed Walker a ampion-to-be in Wright, had taken Henry Armstrong to the heights from mebody else's bone yard. Henry's early career, in which he was known as ellody Jackson, was undistinguished. In fact, he changed his name to enry Armstrong because he hoped it would enable him to make a fresh rt. When he came to Mead's attention, Armstrong was being managed by irt (One Shot) Ross. "One Shot" couldn't get too much work for him, nor as he getting him money when he did fight. The outcome was that Henry as losing to fighters he ought to have licked. He was mentally on the ropes.

Mead, with bankrolling by Al Jolson and George Raft, purchased rmstrong's contract. The upswing to his morale was instantaneous. In six onths, Mead had Armstrong in Madison Square Garden. In a year, he had enry fighting for the featherweight title with Petey Sarron, whom he ocked out. Within another year, Eddie's on-the-ball managing had resulted Armstrong's defeat of Barney Ross for the welter crown and his capture lightweight honors from Lou Ambers.

The marvelous machine of mayhem that was Henry (Jackson) Armstrong n down eventually, as they all do. But Eddie's work with Armstrong mains an epic of its kind.

It is ironic that Walker, so persistent with Wright, lost patience quickly th lightweight Chester Rico. Jimmy White had turned over Rico to Walker, o couldn't see him. The contract on the lad then bounced to Jackie Barrett. five fights, Barrett pushed Rico, a clever boxer, to a rated position.

***

An ace retriever of discarded destroyers on the clubfighting level is Jack rley, manager at Stillman's Gym. "I see in fighters what a lot of managers ss," Curley was explaining, "and if I told you, I would put myself out of siness, but I do things with fighters. Look at the record."

John Thomas, a scoffed-at heavyweight, got the Curley treatment and et Joey Maxim, among others. Phil Burton, a plugging welterweight, was ed up and fought Billy Graham to a split decision that many thought uld have gone to Burton. And there were others.

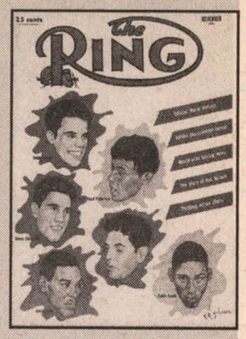
Lou Stillman is an acid-tongued tyrant running his establishment. Yet the y time he attempted to manage a fighter, Willie Harmon, the lightweight de more money than he'd ever earned under preceding management.

A notable presto-chango of a situation of the last few years is that of Joey rdello, a middleweight contender and now a consistent solid-earner. For ut four years, Jimmy Santoro of Philadelphia doggedly stuck it out with rdello in spite of Joey's indifference to training. Finally, Santoro sold the ntract for $1,500.

With his new handlers, Carmine Graziano and Tony Ferrente, Giardello denly grew up. He substituted seriousness for a playboy's attitude. The duct was winning form and pride of progress. The secret? Santoro sadly nders. Graziano and Ferrente just smile.

Obviously, this rundown hasn't included every fighter who became a cess on the rebound, so to speak. But the facts show it's silly to say "once ilure, always a failure." In boxing, second-hand doesn't always mean h. It often means the maximum wasn't realized the first time. ■

THE RING, November 1953

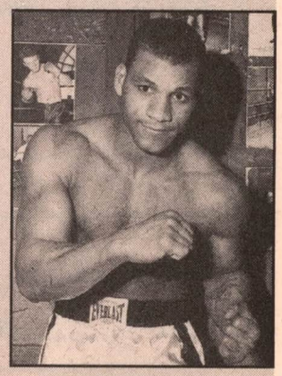


The Cover: Artist Chris Schaare draws a sextet of world-class fighters in Ralph Dupas, Floyd Patterson, Danny Giovanelli, Alan Moody, Lulu Perez, and Randy Sandy.

Best Of The Heavys: Editor Nat Fleischer rates the heavyweight champions, from John L. Sullivan to Rocky Marciano, in a handful of categories. He ranks Jim Corbett as the best boxer, Jack Johnson as the best all-around heavyweight, Jack Dempsey (pictured) as the best infighter, and Joe Louis as the best finisher.

From Chump To Champ: Jersey Jones examines fighters who appeared on heavyweight championship undercards, only to fight for the title later in their careers. Among those highlighted: Gene Tunney, Tony Galento (pictured), and Jim Braddock.

Same Old Story: Daniel M. Daniel looks at the heavyweight picture and decides that given the money available, there is a surprising paucity of top-level campaigners. What will happen, Daniel wonders, after world champion Rocky Marciano (pictured) defends against Roland LaStarza?

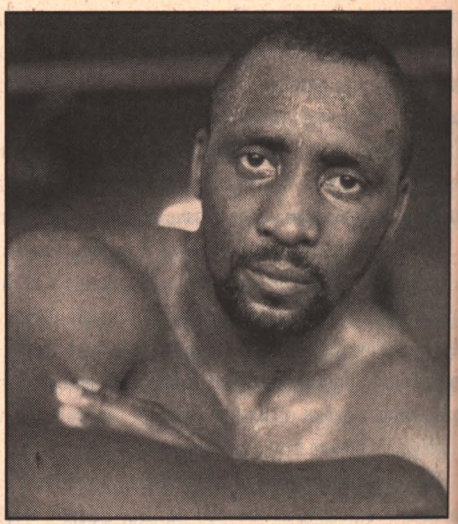


Fighter Of The Month: The honors go to top-rated light heavyweight contender Harold Johnson, who scored a split decision over former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles in Philadelphia. Charles, who wants a try at Rocky Marciano, has lost two consecutive bouts.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood

"THE HIT MAN" GOES TO BAT



Hearns is looking for Wamba

The proliferation of titles aside, should Thomas Hearns win the cruiserweight title, it would be a most impressive accomplishment. Remember, the 35-year-old "Hit Man" first became a world champion at 147 pounds.

As we went to press, it seemed Hearns' chance would finally come. According to manager Emanuel Steward, Hearns will challenge WBC titlist Anaclet Wamba in mid-October, probably in Las Vegas. Both fighters will earn about $700,000. The bout will be promoted by Don King.

Steward said Wamba, who is 34, has agreed to a key concession: He'll scale no more than 185, or five pounds under the division limit. Moreover, the weigh-in will be held the day of the fight.

"Wamba is a big man; he reminds me of Teofilo Stevenson," said Steward. "But he's a boxer, and Tommy's never had trouble with tall boxers. I have Tommy boxing seven, eight rounds a day, just dancing and building up his legs. There's a good chance he'll knock Wamba out."

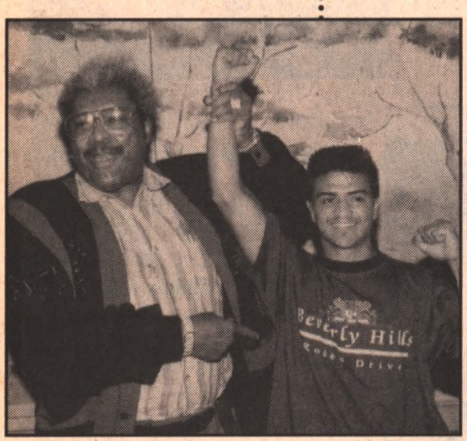


Photo by Jay Lash

Signing Carbajal was a major coup for King

A KING-SIZED MOVE

Michael Carbajal and his brother and manager Danny shocked the boxing world in July by breaking away from their longtime promoter, Bob Arum, and signing with Don King. What does the move mean? According to Danny Carbajal, a rubber match with WBC/IBF junior flyweight champion Chiquita Gonzalez remains a priority.

"We're still gonna get Gonzalez," he told THE RING. "Probably in late-October or early-November. And for a better amount [of money] than Arum offered us."

Gonzalez is promoted by Forum Boxing, and John Beyrooty, the Forum's boxing publicist, believes that while King may indeed make Carbajal-Gonzalez III, the promoter really wanted Carbajal so he could make a major match for unbeaten WBC strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez.

"The only way King can make a name for Lopez in the USA is for him to fight Carbajal or Chiquita," he said. "I think the chances of that happening are much better than Carbajal-Chiquita III."

LISTEN UP

CBS has five boxing dates scheduled for October through December, and Garden State Boxing is hoping to make IBF featherweight champion **Tom Johnson's** mandatory defense against **Pancho Segura** for October 22. "Boom Boom" is always in good fights, and it's about time he receives some exposure. Look for rising cruiser **Sergei Kobozev** on one of the other CBS dates ... The WBA has indeed stripped **John David Jackson** of the middleweight crown. Argentina's **Jorge Castro** edged **Reggie Johnson** for the vacant title. It's anticipated he'll defend first against Jackson. Jackson was dropped to number 10, ostensibly for engaging in a non-title bout without the organization's knowledge ... Don King doesn't promote **Michael Moorer**, **Lennox Lewis**, or **Riddick Bowe**, but he'll continue to be a player at heavyweight. In the WBA ratings, the five highest-ranked contenders fight for King, and in the WBC and IBF, it's the top three. ■

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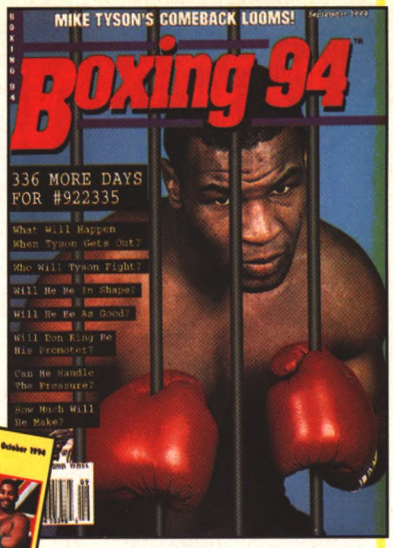

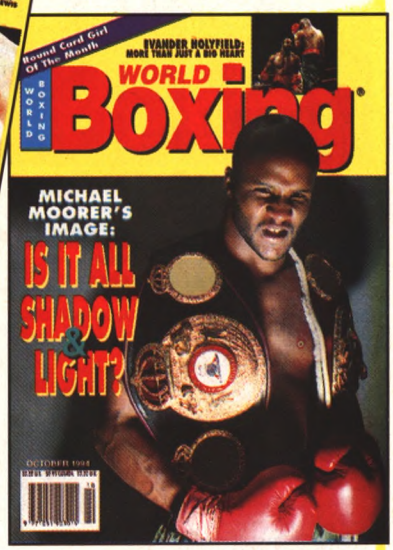

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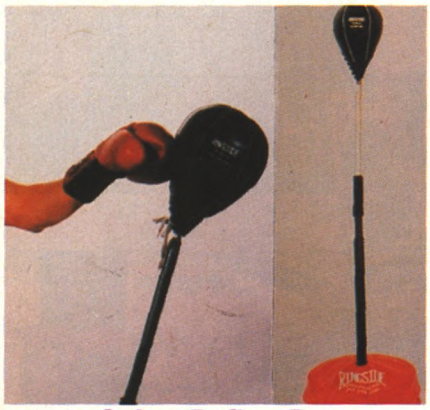

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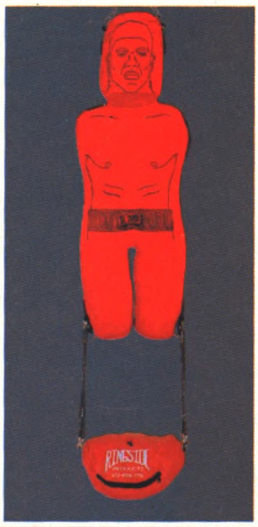

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